



DE PALM TOURS PARTICIPATES IN REEF CLEANING

Page 13



MATT BOLAND IS MADE TOP CHEF AT DIVI RESORTS

Page 15

Aruba TODAY

On Top Of The News Email:news@arubatoday.com website: www.arubatoday.com Tel:+297 582-7800 Thursday, September 25, 2014



President Recep Tayyib Erdogan of Turkey addresses a meeting of the United Nations Security Council regarding the threat of foreign terrorist fighters during the 69th session of the U.N. General Assembly at U.N. headquarters, Wednesday, Sept. 24, 2014.

(AP Photo/Jason DeCrow)

Turkish Leader Says World Not Doing Enough

ZEINA KARAM
Associated Press

UNITED NATIONS (AP) — The president of Turkey on Wednesday accused the international community of doing too little to stem the flow of foreign fighters to Syria and slammed the U.N. Security Council's inaction on some of the world's most pressing issues.

In two separate speeches in New York, Recep Tayyip Erdogan said Turkey was playing a leading role in fighting terrorism but was not being aided by the rest of the world. "We can stop this flow of foreign terrorist fighters only if our friends and partners awaiting our cooperation show, themselves, a sort of

cooperation as well," Erdogan said.

"This is not a fight to be carried out solely by Turkey," he added.

But Turkey, a key backer of the rebels seeking to oust Syrian President Bashar Assad, is under scrutiny for allowing thousands of fighters to cross into Syria across its borders.

Syria's U.N. Ambassador Bashar Jaafari reiterated the criticism later Wednesday, noting pointedly that Turkey was the "main gate for terrorists crossing into Syria and Iraq."

He said Turkey, Qatar and Saudi Arabia have turned their airports into "reception halls" for extremists before sending them illegally

to Syria. Erdogan spoke at a Security Council meeting where members unanimously approved a resolution requiring countries to prevent the recruitment and transport of foreign fighters preparing to join terrorist groups.

Continued on page 2

Turkish leader says world not doing enough

Continued from Front

It was an unusual Security Council meeting chaired by President Barack Obama and attended largely by heads of state for the 15 member states. U.S. intelligence officials estimate some 12,000 foreigners have traveled to Syria and Iraq to join the Islamic State group, which has many as 31,000 fighters.

Erdogan said the threat of foreign terrorist fighters starts "the moment these individuals depart from the source countries" and that countries concerned have not cooperated in a timely fashion.

Still, he said, recent information sharing by source countries helped Turkey in its effort to stem the flow. About 3,600 individuals have been included on the "no entry list" and nearly 1,000 foreigners have been deported by the Turkish government, Erdogan claimed.

He said Turkey sacrificed greatly, taking in more than a million Syrian refugees in addition to more than 140,000 Syrian Kurdish refugees last week alone. "Despite our sacrifices and our expectations of solidarity, we have not received the kind of support we've been looking for from the international community," he said.



Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan addresses the 69th session of the United Nations General Assembly Wednesday, Sept. 24, 2014, at U.N. headquarters.

(AP Photo/Frank Franklin II)

Erdogan has said he would offer military help but has been vague about exactly how he intends to answer the American call to join Washington and a number of Arab states as they continue attacks on the Islamic State group that has taken

over wide swaths of Syria and Iraq in a brutal assault and a bid to establish what the radical group calls a Islamic Caliphate.

Earlier in the day, in his speech to the U.N. General Assembly, Erdogan said the U.N. has repeatedly failed

to act, citing the Syrian civil war which has killed more than 200,000 people and this summer's Gaza War in which more than 2,000 people died.

He also criticized the U.N. for what he termed the legitimization of Egyptian President Abdel-Fattah el-Sissi who spoke from the same podium shortly before.

He said the democratically elected President of Egypt, Islamist president Mohammed Morsi, was overthrown by a coup, and the U.N. chose to legitimize the person who conducted this coup — a reference to el-Sissi.

"We should respect the choice of the people in the ballot box. If we want to support coups...then why does the United Nations exist?" he said.

Turkey had forged a close alliance with Morsi and strongly criticized the military coup in Egypt which ousted his government. He has described el-Sissi as a "tyrant," prompting Egypt's Foreign Ministry to summon the Turkish charge d'affaires.

Erdogan said the U.N. as a world body should be more "brave" in addressing world problems.

"The world is bigger than the five," he said of the five permanent Security Council members, accusing them of rendering the U.N. ineffective. □

Dutch to send fighter jets to hit at IS in Iraq

THE HAGUE, Netherlands

(AP) — The Dutch government is sending six F-16 fighter jets to strike at the Islamic State extremist group in Iraq, Deputy Prime Minister Lodewijk Asscher announced Wednesday.

The Cabinet met for hours behind closed doors before approving the deployment of six planes and two reserve jets along with 250 pilots and support staff. The Dutch also will send about 130 military trainers to Iraq to school Iraqi and Kurdish fighters battling the Islamic State group on the ground. Asscher said the Dutch government's decision was in response to the Iraqi government's appeals for help from the international community. He added that the government doesn't currently see an international mandate for joining airstrikes in Syria.

Defense Minister Jeanine Hennis-Plasschaert said the Dutch jets will likely be based in Jordan. Their mission initially will be for up to a year. Asscher acknowledged that the Dutch role in the fight against Islamic State brings risks not only to the troops and pilots involved, but also at home. "The Netherlands will gain a higher profile among jihadis. We are ready," Asscher said. "The threat profile is monitored permanently and our security services are prepared."

The terror threat level in the Netherlands is currently "substantial," the second highest of four levels used by the country's anti-terror coordinator.

Meanwhile, Foreign Minister Frans Timmermans, in New York for the U.N. General Assembly, called for support for organizations documenting human rights abuses in Syria so that perpetrators can eventually be brought to justice.

"These crimes are being committed now, so we have to talk to witnesses and Syrian refugees who have managed to flee the country," Timmermans said in a statement. □

UK Parliament recalled to discuss Iraq airstrikes

DANICA KIRKA

Associated Press

LONDON (AP) — Britain's Parliament has been recalled to debate whether the country should support air strikes to thwart Islamic State group extremists in Iraq, Prime Minister David Cameron said Wednesday. Cameron announced the session, which will include a vote, after meeting with Iraqi Prime Minister Haider al-Abadi in New York. In the meeting, Al-Abadi requested help in fighting the violent organization. Cameron said action in

Syria, where the militants also have seized a swathe of territory, will not be on the agenda Friday, when lawmakers will be brought back from a recess called for party conference season in Britain.

"I'm confident we will get this through Parliament on an all-party basis," Cameron said. "We'll be voting on taking part in international action against (the Islamic State group) in Iraq, if there was a question of taking part in action in Syria that would be a separate parliamentary vote and

debate. I want to be very clear about that."

The decision to omit Syria from the debate is important, as opposition lawmakers have questioned the legality of taking the fight to the country governed by Syrian President Bashar Assad, who has not requested intervention. The request for help from the Iraqi leadership government will offer the legal backing for UK action absent in efforts last year to win backing for attacks on Syria to stop it from using chemical weapons on its

people.

The United States and France have launched airstrikes on the Islamic State group, but Britain has not yet taken such action.

Opposition leader Ed Miliband said his party would support the proposal.

"We cannot turn away from the threat of (the Islamic State group) which is a murderous organization, has taken British hostages, threatens the stability of the region and is therefore a threat to the UK's national interest," he said. □

Obama at UN: Dismantle the IS 'network of death'

JULIE PACE

EDITH M. LEDERER

Associated Press

UNITED NATIONS (AP) —

Confronted by the growing threat of Middle East militants, President Barack Obama implored world leaders at the United Nations Wednesday to rally behind his expanding military campaign to stamp out the violent Islamic State group and its "network of death."

"There can be no reasoning, no negotiation, with this brand of evil," Obama told the General Assembly. In a striking shift for a president who has been reluctant to take military action in the past, Obama declared that force is the only language the militants understand. He warned those who have joined their cause to "leave the battlefield while they can." The widening war against the Islamic State was just one in a cascade of crises that confronted the presidents, prime ministers and monarchs at the annual meeting of the U.N. General Assembly. Also vying for attention was Russia's continued provocations in Ukraine, a deadly Ebola outbreak in West Africa, and the plight of civilians caught in conflicts around the world.

"Not since the end of the Second World War have there been so many refugees, displaced people and asylum seekers," U.N. Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon said as he opened Wednesday's session.

In a rare move, Obama also chaired a meeting of the U.N. Security Council where members unanimously adopted a resolution requiring all countries to prevent the recruitment and transport of would-be foreign fighters preparing to join terrorist organizations such as the Islamic State group.

The American-led military campaign in the Middle East was at the center of much of the day's discussions. After weeks of airstrikes in Iraq, U.S. planes began hitting targets in Syria this week, joined by an unexpected coalition of five Arab nations: Bahrain, Saudi Arabia, Jordan,

Qatar and the United Arab Emirates.

There were more U.S. and coalition airstrikes Wednesday on both sides of the Syrian-Iraqi border. U.S. and allied planes and drones hit a dozen targets in Syria that included small-scale oil refineries that have been providing millions of dollars to the Islamic State, the U.S. Central Command said. Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates took part in addition to U.S. aircraft. France has also taken part in strikes in Iraq, and British Prime Minister David Cameron's office announced that Parliament was being recalled to London to debate whether to join the campaign, too.

The Islamic State has made lightning gains in Iraq this year and now moves freely across the increasingly blurred border with Syria. The group has claimed responsibility for the beheading of two American journalists and a British aid worker, sparking outrage in the West and contributing to an increase in public support for military action. Shortly after Obama's remarks, France confirmed that Algerian extremists allied with the Islamic State group had beheaded one of its citizens after the French ignored demands to stop airstrikes in Iraq. French President Francois Hollande, who was in New York for the U.N. meetings, said the killing underscored why "the fight the international community needs to wage versus terrorism knows no borders."

U.S. officials say they are concerned that foreigners with Western passports could return to their home countries to carry out attacks. And even as Obama welcomed support for the resolution to deter foreign fighters, he said more must be done.

"The words spoken here today must be matched and translated into action," he said.

The threat from the Islamic State group has already drawn Obama back into conflicts in the Middle East that he has long sought to avoid, particularly in Syria, which is mired in a bloody three-year civil war. □



United States President Barack Obama attends a meeting of the United Nations Security Council regarding the threat of foreign terrorist fighters during the 69th session of the U.N. General Assembly at U.N. headquarters, Wednesday, Sept. 24, 2014.

(AP Photo/Jason DeCrow)

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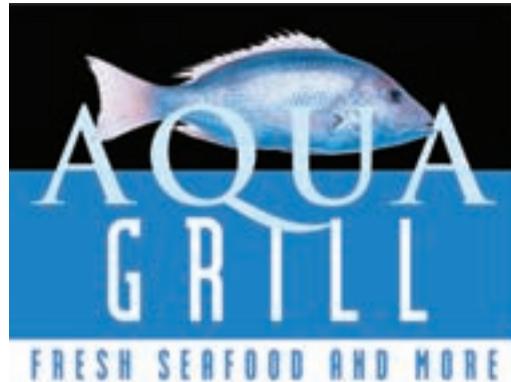
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EPA unveils new blueprint to restore Great Lakes

MICHAEL WINES

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The federal government issued a new blueprint Wednesday for its efforts to restore the Great Lakes, including plans to clean up 10 contaminated rivers and harbors and a stepped-up attack on poisonous algae blooms that coat parts of three lakes each summer. The program will include a new attempt to buffer the lakes against the effects of climate change. It will require, for example, that new wetlands include plants that can thrive in warmer temperatures.

The new blueprint, called the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative Action Plan II, was disclosed by Gina McCarthy, administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency, at a Chicago meeting of Great Lakes mayors. It builds on a four-year initiative, begun in President Barack Obama's first term, that has already spent \$1.6 billion on more than 2,100 restoration projects on the lakes' U.S. side. The added initiative, which extends through 2019, is ex-



Horacio Romero surveys the algae-infested waters of Lake Erie at Maumee Bay State Park in the town of Oregon, Ohio. The federal government on Sept. 24 released a new action plan for combating poisonous algae blooms in the Great Lakes, in what is being called the largest conservation program in U.S. history.

(Joshua Lott/The New York Times)

pected to cost roughly the same.

The government says the project is the largest conservation program in the nation's history, involving 15 federal agencies and the eight Great Lakes states.

Among the other goals, the initiative seeks an eightfold

increase in the amount of urban runoff that its projects capture or treat, and a doubling of wetlands and wildlife habitat that is restored. It would more than double the acreage covered by efforts to control invasive species, from

plants to insects to the big-head carp. And it would attempt by 2019 to reduce phosphorus fertilizer runoff by more than 1,400 tons. The five lakes - the largest group of freshwater lakes in the world - have grown markedly healthier since

the 1970s, when a budding environmental movement led to limits on pollution that rescued dying fisheries and made once-fouled shores safe for swimming. But growing cities have crowded out marshes that hosted wildlife and filtered runoff, and intensive farming has filled rivers with fertilizer that spawns vast algae blooms. The lakes' ecological balance is also threatened by mussels, lampreys and other invasive species that crowd out or kill native fish and other creatures. The latest phase will focus on the lakes' most serious problems, including scores of areas of concern that the United States and Canada identified in 1987 - and which went largely ignored until the restoration initiative began in 2010. Those 43 areas of concern are largely old industrial rivers and harbors where polluted water and contaminated sediment can pose hazards to wildlife and people. □

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Businesses can keep BP spill payouts

J. MCCONAUGHEY
Associated Press

NEW ORLEANS (AP) — BP wanted its money back — hundreds of millions of dollars of it — but a U.S. judge said Wednesday that the oil giant must stick by its agreement with the companies it compensated for business losses due to the 2010 Gulf oil spill. BP argued that a flawed funding formula in their settlement with alleged victims of the spill enabled many businesses to collect on questionable claims, and that they should be forced to return the money. U.S. District Judge Carl Bar-

bier agreed several weeks ago to change the formula for any future payments, but he ruled Wednesday that a deal is a deal when it comes to the money BP has already paid out. Under that deal, claimants agreed not to sue the oil company, and BP company agreed that no future court action could change their payments.

The ruling thwarts BP's latest attempt to control its soaring liability from the spill, which may be nearing \$50 billion.

Barbier said he would rule later on the issue of compensation for cleanup

workers whose chronic medical problems weren't diagnosed until after the deal's cutoff date of April 16, 2012.

The settlement entitled cleanup workers with chronic conditions including rashes and breathing problems to receive up to \$60,700 if the problems first surfaced within days of their cleanup work.

Barbier ruled in July that, as BP contends, those payments can only go to people diagnosed before that date, and any plaintiffs diagnosed later must prove in court that their illness was linked to their spill work. □

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Suspect captured in case of missing Virginia student

M. FELBERBAUM
Associated Press

RICHMOND, Virginia (AP)

— A man charged in the disappearance of a British-born University of Virginia student was captured in Texas on Wednesday, a day after police announced they had probable cause to arrest him.

Police believe Jesse Leroy Matthew Jr. was the last person seen with Hannah Graham, an 18-year-old sophomore who went missing on Sept. 13. Authorities obtained a felony warrant for his arrest late Tuesday. He has been charged with abduction with intent to defile.

Matthew had sped away from a police station Saturday after coming with family members to ask for a lawyer. It's not clear whether the longtime area resident knew Graham, who was last seen in an area lined with shops and restaurants where police believe she went into a bar with him.

Charlottesville Police Chief Timothy Longo announced Matthew's capture at a news conference Wednesday night. He said Matthew was in custody in Galveston, Texas, and would be extradited to Virginia. Longo added that police were still searching for Graham.

"This case is nowhere near over," said the police chief, who did not take questions from reporters. "We have a person in custody but there's a long road ahead of us."

A dispatcher at the sheriff's office in Galveston referred questions about the arrest and timing of Matthew's extradition to Charlottesville police, who did not provide details at the news conference and did not

immediately respond to telephone messages afterward.

Adam S. Lee, special agent in charge of the FBI office in Richmond, said at the news conference that "the real hero of today is an employee, a deputy with the Galveston County Sheriff's Office."

"So we'd like to, on behalf of the FBI, thank them for their very effective police work today."

The case has spread fear through the quiet community about 70 miles (112 kilometers) west of Richmond. Authorities have increased patrols and a late-night transportation program for students, who also have begun walking in pairs at night and are paying closer attention to their surroundings.

According to police, Graham met friends at a restaurant for dinner on Sept. 12 before stopping by two parties at off-campus housing units. She left the second party alone, police



Charlottesville Police Chief Timothy Longo announces that Jesse Leroy Matthew Jr. has been arrested in Galveston, Texas during a news conference in Charlottesville, Va., Wednesday, Sept. 24, 2014. Police have charged Matthew with abduction with intent to defile Hannah Graham, an 18-year-old sophomore who went missing on Sept. 13.

(AP Photo/The Daily Progress, Ryan M. Kelly)

have said, and sent a text message to a friend saying she was lost.

Surveillance videos showed her walking, and at some points running, past a pub

and a service station and then onto the Downtown Mall, a seven-block pedestrian strip where police believe she entered a bar with Matthew.

The university said he's been employed at the University of Virginia Medical Center since Aug. 12, 2012, as a patient technician in the operating room. □

Windows smashed, arrests made in Ferguson protest

JIM SALTER

Associated Press

FERGUSON, Missouri (AP)

Five people were arrested and two law enforcement officers were hurt in Ferguson after protests over the death of Michael Brown again intensified, authorities said Wednesday.

Ferguson was the site of sometimes violent protests and looting in the days after 18-year-old Brown, who was black, was shot by white Ferguson police officer Darren Wilson on Aug. 9.

Missouri Highway Patrol Capt. Ron Johnson said it wasn't clear if a fire at a makeshift memorial for

Brown led to the unrest Tuesday night in the St. Louis suburb.

Reports of smashed windows and possible arson came hours after the memorial of teddy bears, signs and other items burned.

About 150 protesters gathered late Tuesday night. Johnson, whom Missouri's governor put in charge of security in Ferguson, said Wednesday that one person was arrested for inciting a riot and four others for failure to disperse.

He said one of the two officers hurt was struck with a rock below the eye.

He described the other of-

ficer's injuries as minor. Windows were smashed at a beauty shop on West Florissant Avenue, where much of the looting happened last month. Johnson said looters also tried to steal a cash register from the shop. A small fire outside a custard shop ap-

peared to be intentionally set, according to fire officials.

Johnson said officers reported seeing gunfire from the protesters but that no one was struck.

Police began clearing the street around 12:15 a.m. Wednesday. □

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Modern Problems:

Middle-class squeeze felt from day care to health care

C. S. RUGABER
 AP Economics Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — Three years ago, Jason Prosser was stunned to discover the cost of child care for his newborn son — so much so that he and his wife postponed having a second child.

The day care center they found near their Seattle home tops \$10,000 a year. Next year, their son, now 3, can attend a Catholic preschool less than half as costly.

"It'll be nice to have enough relief next year," Prosser said. "It's just funny that the relief will be a private school."

He and his wife are among legions of middle-class families who are straining under the weight of accelerating costs for a range of essential services from day care to health care. And now a study by the Center for American Progress shows just how heavy the burden has grown: For a typical married couple with two children, the combined cost of child care, housing, health care and savings for college and retirement jumped 32 percent from 2000 to 2012 — and that's after adjusting for inflation.

Compounding the pain is that average pay for Americans is barely topping inflation.

The figures help explain why many Americans feel stressed even as the economy has strengthened — and why some feel bewildered to hear that overall inflation in the United States is, if anything, too low.

From TVs, computers and

cellphones to clothing and cars, many goods have dropped in price in the past decade. Those declining prices have helped keep overall inflation historically low — even lower than the 2 per-

The squeeze is making it harder for middle-income families to build savings. The median net worth of families in the middle 20 percent of incomes fell 17 percent from 2010 to 2013, according to the Federal

continue to face pressures to spend on health care and education," he wrote in a study earlier this year. More Americans are paying higher health care costs in the form of premiums and deductibles.

to 2012 — far above the 52 percent increase of the preceding 12 years, according to data from the College Board. State aid to higher education has fallen in the past decade, thereby requiring students to bear more of the cost. Child care costs for a family of four have soared an average of 37 percent in the past 12 years, according to the data compiled by the CAP, and now exceed the typical cost of renting in every state. Those costs may be pricing some women out of the workforce, according to a Pew Research Center report. Pew found that the percentage of mothers who stay at home reached 29 percent in 2012, the highest level in two decades.

The sensation of being squeezed persists even though the consumer price index, the most widely followed inflation gauge, has risen less than 2 percent a year since the recession ended.

One reason for the disconnect is that the CPI is weighted more heavily toward things people frequently buy — food and gasoline, for example. While child care can be a huge expense for families with young kids, not everyone faces it. So it makes up just 0.7 percent of the consumer price index.

It's a much bigger bite in the Prosser household, however. "We used to go out, we used to go to the opera," Prosser said. But now, "between mortgage, bills and the child care payment, that's pretty much everything." □



Jason Prosser picks up his son Zachary, 3, from day care, in SeaTac, Wash. Prosser and his wife are one of many middle-class couples struggling with accelerating costs for critical services such as health care and housing. At the same time, their income has been stagnant for the past three years.

cent the Federal Reserve thinks is ideal.

Yet when you consider that average health care and college costs rocketed more than 80 percent from 2000 to 2012, it's easier to understand why many families feel they are struggling.

"An overseas colleague characterized the situation well: America is a place where the luxuries are cheap and the necessities are expensive," said Joseph Cohen, a sociology professor at Queens College in New York.

Reserve's Survey of Consumer Finances.

"People feel greater anxiety because their pay is stagnating, their costs have gone up, and they feel like they are running in place or even falling behind," said Neera Tanden, the CAP's president.

Cohen said it's hard to foresee an end to the squeeze.

"There is every reason to believe that a country with an aging population and an economy that is increasingly reliant on high-skilled workers will

Stephen Tarkowski has noticed the change. When Tarkowski, 38, of Chilton, Wisconsin, first started working, "if you had health insurance, you didn't have to worry about co-pays, you didn't have to worry about anything."

But now, "I can't afford to increase my own savings, when my health care costs are increasing at the same time," he said.

Tuition and fees at four-year public colleges soared 86 percent, adjusted for inflation, from 2000

US Financial Front:

New home sales soar in August

JOSH BOAK
AP Economics Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — U.S. sales of new homes surged in August, led by a wave of buying in the West and Northeast.

The Commerce Department said Wednesday that new-home sales climbed 18 percent last month to a seasonally adjusted annual rate of 504,000. The report also revised up the July sales rate to 427,000 from 412,000.

Newly constructed homes

the Northeast. Buying increased 7.8 percent in the South and remained flat in the Midwest.

The housing market has been sputtering for much this year. A nascent recovery in sales and prices began to struggle toward the middle of 2013. Ferocious winter weather delayed construction and limited sales at the beginning of 2014. Buying did pick up over the summer. Yet the pace of sales has been depressed by sluggish wage



Construction is underway at a housing development in Zelienople, Pa. The Commerce Department reported on sales of new homes in August on Wednesday, Sept. 24, 2014.

(AP Photo/Keith Srakocic)

sold at the fastest clip since May 2008. It's a clear sign of improvement for a real estate market that has been muddled in recent months, as the rebound in sales following the housing bust began to slow.

Sales of new homes are up 33 percent over the past 12 months. Median prices for new homes have risen nearly 8 percent during the same period to \$275,600.

"All is not perfect in the housing market but things are certainly better today than they were about one year ago," said Dan Greenhaus, chief strategist at BTIG brokerage.

In the West, August purchases of new homes soared 50 percent compared to the prior month. Off the sharp August increase, sales in the West have nearly doubled in the past 12 months.

Between August and July, sales grew 29.2 percent in

growth and the price surge last year that put homes out of reach for many Americans.

While new-home sales did show greater strength in August, they are significantly below the 1990s pace of more than 700,000 sales a year, said Tom Showalter, chief analytics officer at Digital Risk, a mortgage analyst company.

"We're well below historic norms," Showalter said.

There are signs that another housing uptick may be in the works.

The National Association of Home Builders/Wells Fargo builder sentiment index climbed in September to 59, the highest reading since November 2005. Readings above 50 indicate more builders view sales conditions as improving.

But greater builder confidence has yet to translate into more construction. □

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American Living: Bulges in All the Wrong Places

NICK BILTON

© 2014 New York Times

It's the ultimate first world problem. You go to the Apple store, drop \$400 for an iPhone 6 and then discover it doesn't fit in your pocket. Gasp!

In the past, such problems were limited to hipsters with curly mustaches, whose jeans were so skinny they might actually be cellophane wrap. But now mere mortals with normal pants and purses are in despair. Over the weekend people bravely took to the public complaint box, Twitter and Facebook, to grumble about this oversized issue. (Pun intended.)

"My new iPhone 6 doesn't fit into the pocket of my Lululemons," Sarah Watson wrote on Twitter.

"I capitulate. The iPhone 6 Plus simply won't fit comfortably in my not-at-all skinny jeans," David Heine-meyer Hansson lamented. He added, with a sad emoji face, that he was "downgrading" to the iPhone 6. And an in-depth thread popped up on Reddit discussing how to get around this problem.

Technology blogs have tried to help. Dozens of videos have appeared on YouTube offering expert tests of iPhones slipping in and out of random pockets. (No, I'm not kidding.) A number of downloadable guides allow users to print out a fake iPhone 6 and 6 Plus to see if they will fit in your clothing. (Again, I'm not kidding.) It won't be long before a Silicon Valley startup gets \$10 million in funding for an app that tells people which iPhones will fit in which jeans. (This time I am kidding - I hope.) While it's easy to joke about this being a non-problem, this is actually a bit of a real issue, given that the smartphone is arguably the most important gadget in our

lives today, and one that is usually just inches away from us.

Among gadget reviewers, women seemed to have the most trouble with the new iPhones.

Lauren Goode of Re/code said the larger model was too big to hold in her hands

those to change anytime soon. I called around to dozens of jean makers and designers, and heard a lot of noes when asked if companies planned to change the style or aesthetic of their clothing to accommodate bigger phones. "Our skinny-jean pockets

pany's jeans, but they too won't make accommodations for the front pockets. "If it disrupts the shape, it's just not worth it," she said. But fear not, men of Silicon Valley. Some guy-centric brands seem to be fine forgoing form for techie function.

Last year Dockers announced that it had expanded its "coin pocket," which is the smaller pocket inside the larger pocket of men's pants, by an extra inch to accommodate larger phones.

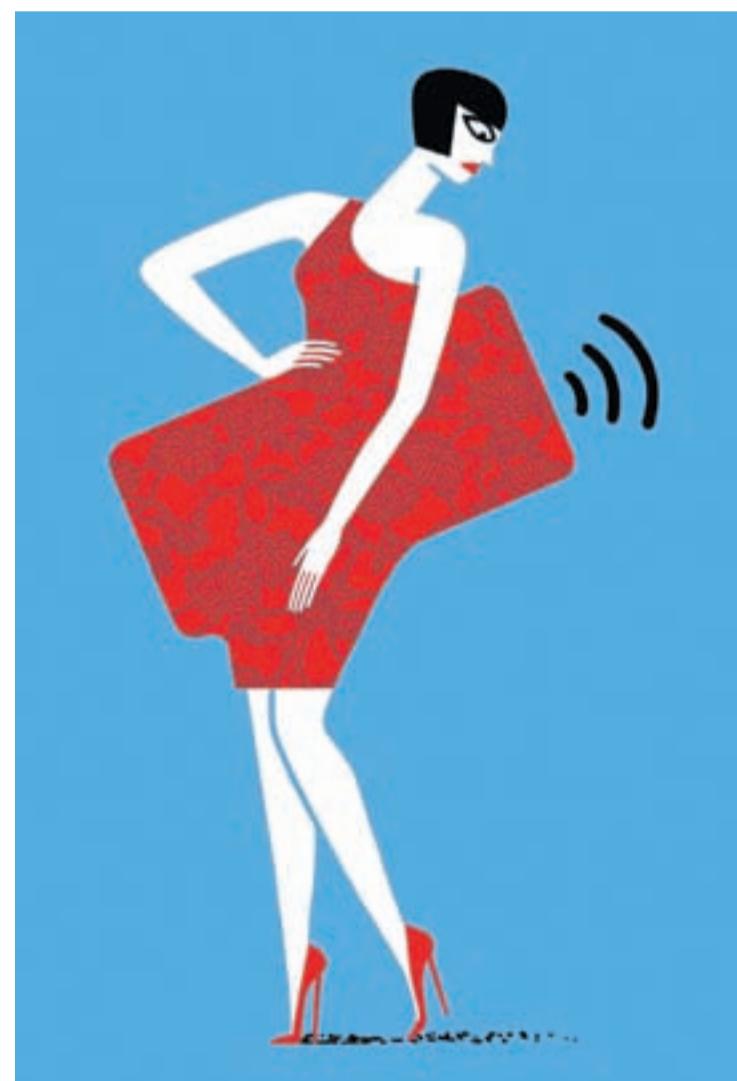
Bonobos, the online clothing store, now offers a jacket called the Jetsetter, which has a larger inside pocket that fits a passport or larger smartphone. "If none of our pants fit the iPhones, that would be a real problem," said Dwight Fenton, vice president for design at Bonobos. "You ignore them at your own peril."

But how much bigger can pockets even get? Josue Perzell, store director of Denim Doctor, a Los Angeles-based vintage jean seller and repair shop, said that over the years, jean pockets had already grown drastically.

"Early vintage jeans tend to have much smaller pockets because people didn't have much to carry back in the day," he said. "They weren't thinking of adding phones or anything else. Today's pockets are much bigger."

There are more serious pockets to worry about. For one, doctors have complained that the larger iPhone 6 Plus does not fit in a lab coat and awkwardly juts out.

With many physicians in the United States using iPhones, this could pose a real problem should they upgrade. Style watchers are having fun predicting what fashion trends these larger screens



It's the ultimate first world problem -- you drop \$400 for an iPhone 6 and then discover it doesn't fit in your pocket. Not surprisingly, people have taken to the public complaint boxes, Twitter and Facebook, to grumble about this oversized issue.

(Luci Gutierrez/The New York Times)

or wear on her arm while exercising. My colleague Molly Wood, a columnist for The New York Times, told me that the iPhone 6 Plus won't fit into her purse.

And Abby Johnston of Bustle noted that because women's jean pockets are smaller than men's, either pockets have to get bigger, or phones smaller. But don't expect either of

are too small for the new iPhone," said Katrina Klein, denim director for Rag & Bone, adding that she has no plans to change that. "We expect people to carry their larger phones in bags and purses."

Lela Tillem Becker, a founder of Mother, a high-end clothing designer, said that the iPhone 6 and 6 Plus fit in the rear pocket of the com-

pany's jeans, but they too

won't make accommodations for the front pockets. "If it disrupts the shape, it's just not worth it," she said. But fear not, men of Silicon Valley. Some guy-centric brands seem to be fine forgoing form for techie function.

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With many physicians in the United States using iPhones, this could pose a real problem should they upgrade. Style watchers are having fun predicting what fashion trends these larger screens

may usher in. The man purse, also known as the "murse," could resurface. Cargo pants, with their jumbo side pockets,

could be the rage again. Or fanny packs could make a miraculous comeback. (We could call them Phony Packs.)

More than likely, the bloated new iPhones could alter public etiquette, again. "You know how you're never supposed to take your phone out at dinner?" wrote Dennis Tang, an editor at GQ. (Besides being uncomfortable, there have been reports of the iPhone bending - the horror! - after users kept them in their pockets for extended periods.)

The larger phone, he said, means it is now OK to flout that rule. "Leaving it untouched and silenced at the edge of the table should do just fine."

Some extreme hipsters won't have to worry about pockets being too small or new etiquette. They are stalwartly refusing to upgrade.

Eric Goldstein, a founder of Jean Shop, a New York-based high-end jean maker, said that some of his customers have said they don't want to buy the new iPhone because it will leave a different wear mark on the front pocket of their jeans.

"A lot of our customers wear their jeans repeatedly to make them look vintage," he said, and explained that they develop a unique rectangular shape where their phone has rubbed up against the pocket.

"With the different sized phones, people are getting upset that they are going to have another shaped rectangle on the pocket area," he said.

Now that is a first world problem. □



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Russian troops said to leave Ukraine, but remain nearby

JAMES KANTER

MARTIN FACKLER

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BRUSSELS - Russia has withdrawn a large number of troops from Ukraine, but maintains a significant force near the border that could quickly re-enter the country, NATO officials said Wednesday.

The assessment signaled growing confidence that the conflict between the Ukrainian government and pro-Russia rebels in the east and the south could be easing, at least for now. Still, a renewed bout of fighting remained a possibility, and NATO was keeping up its enhanced presence at the eastern borders of the alliance.

"We have seen a reduction in incidents and of Russian regular troops inside Ukraine," Carmen Romero, a NATO spokeswoman, said in a statement. "But some Russian special forces remain in Ukraine, plus there remains a substantial Russian military presence on the border."

"So while we welcome all genuine efforts to achieve a peaceful solution, Russia is keeping the option to destabilize Ukraine," she said.

On Sept. 5, the Ukrainian government and the separatists signed a cease-fire agreement laid out by President Vladimir V. Putin of Russia, whom Western leaders have accused of provoking unrest to keep Ukraine in Moscow's orbit. Russia has not acknowledged the presence of any military personnel on Ukrainian soil, but last month NATO said it had evidence that Russia was moving artillery units and soldiers across the border and firing on Ukrainian soldiers. The statement did not say

when the withdrawals began, but a military official in Europe who spoke on the condition of anonymity because of the sensitivity of the intelligence

said they started after the cease-fire took effect. They began slowly, and by the end of last week the majority of Russian troops had been withdrawn, the official said.

Incidents of artillery fire and other hostilities between Ukrainian and separatist forces have also declined, according to a more detailed assessment from Lt. Col. Jay Janzen, the chief of media operations for the central command for NATO's military forces.

Janzen said it was hard to determine how many Russian troops remained inside Ukraine, as the separatists controlled several border crossings and troops routinely moved back and forth. But he noted that thousands of Russian troops remained in the vicinity of the border, adding, "Russian special forces are operating in Ukraine, and they are difficult to detect."

With the Russian economy already sputtering, in part from the effects of Western sanctions, Japan on Wednesday imposed limited new sanctions against Russia over the unrest in Ukraine, moving to stay in line with its Western allies even as it tries to keep alive a proposed summit meeting with Putin. □



A fighter with the Donetsk People's Republic shows a passer-by the helmet of a Ukrainian soldier on the outskirts of Donetsk, Ukraine. Ukrainians have been promised the low-grade war against Russia would be brought to a close with the country remaining whole, but as the dust settles, there is a sense both here and abroad that Ukraine is less independent from Moscow than ever.

(Mauricio Lima/The New York Times)

Iran: General helped Iraq's Kurds battle IS

ALI AKBAR DAREINI

Associated Press

TEHRAN, Iran (AP) — A top Iranian general and 70 of his forces were on the ground in Iraq this summer, helping Kurdish fighters defend the regional capital Irbil against Islamic State militants, a senior commander from Iran's Revolutionary Guard said Wednesday. The commander's remarks appeared to confirm for the first time that Iranian military forces are playing a battlefield role alongside Iraqis against the Islamic State extremist group, though it was not clear whether they were involved in combat or merely serving as advisers. Iran has said it provides advice to Iraq's government but

has denied sending combatants or weapons.

Gen. Amir Ali Hajizadeh, who runs the Guard's aerospace division, said top Gen. Ghasem Soleimani was instrumental in preventing the fall of Irbil.

"If it were not for Iran's help, the IS would have captured (Iraq's) Kurdistan," he said on state television late Tuesday. "Our respected General... Soleimani stood up to IS with only 70 forces and did not allow them to enter Irbil."

The Islamic State militants approached the outskirts of Irbil in August, prompting the United States to launch airstrikes that helped Kurdish forces drive them back. Soleimani has since 1997 been head of the Quds

Force, a division of the elite Revolutionary Guard that carries out special operations outside Iran. He is believed to have played a key role in mobilizing Iranian allies across the region, including the Lebanese Hezbollah group and Shiite militias in Iraq.

Iran's Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, who has the final say on all state matters, has reportedly described Soleimani as a "living martyr" in recognition of his work.

Although Iran and the United States share a common enemy in the Islamic State group, a deep-seated lack of trust has so far kept the longtime foes from publicly allying against the extremists.

While the U.S. has led air strikes against Islamic State militants, Iran is believed to have played a key role on the ground mobilizing Iraqi Kurdish and Shiite forces, including for last month's retaking of the northern Iraqi city of Amriki, which had been besieged by Islamic State militants for more than two months.

Iran fears that the U.S. wants to use the fight against the Islamic State group as a pretext to strike Syrian President Bashar Assad's government, a close ally of Tehran. The Obama administration has repeatedly called on Assad to resign and ruled out any cooperation with Damascus, even against the Islamic State group. □

French hostage in Algeria is beheaded in video

RUKMINI CALLIMACHI

© 2014 New York Times

In a sign of the growing influence of the extremist group known as the Islamic State, fighters aligned with the organization beheaded a French tourist in Algeria and released a video Wednesday documenting the brutal killing, according to the SITE Intelligence Group.

The Frenchman - Hervé Gourdel, 55, a mountain-eering guide from Nice -

was kidnapped over the weekend, soon after the Islamic State called on its supporters around the world to harm Europeans in retaliation for the recent airstrikes in Iraq and Syria. The Algerian fighters swiftly responded to the Islamic State's call by posting a video of Gourdel in captivity, appearing disoriented and still carrying his camera slung around his neck. In addition, a militant group in the Philippines also an-

nounced that it was holding European captives: two Germans whom it threatened to kill unless Germany pays ransom or stops supporting the U.S.-led campaign against the Islamic State. Policymakers have debated for months whether the Islamic State is able to strike directly at the West. Its capacity for large-scale terrorist attacks beyond its home in the Middle East remains in dispute.

But the beheading of Gourdel and the threat to kill the two Germans demonstrate that smaller groups around the world aligned with the Islamic State are capable of kidnapping Westerners and using them for grisly propaganda purposes in sympathy with the organization. The public oaths of allegiance indicate that the smaller groups have placed themselves under the command of the Islam-

ic State's leader, Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi.

Analysts have questioned how close these relationships are, but the sequence of events over the weekend suggested that at least the Algerian cell was directly following the larger group's orders.

Gourdel was kidnapped Sunday in the mountainous Tizi Ouzou region of Algeria, a day after he arrived there to go hiking. □

Australia: Terror suspect killed after slashing officers

MICHELLE INNIS

© 2014 New York Times

SYDNEY - An 18-year-old man who was fatally shot after wounding two police officers near Melbourne was a "known terror suspect" whose passport had been confiscated, Australian officials said Wednesday.

The man, whose name was not released, attacked two officers with a knife in the parking lot of a police station Tuesday in the town of Endeavour Hills, about 20 miles southeast of Melbourne, police said. One officer shot the man and killed him, police said. The two officers, who worked together on a counterterrorism task force, were hospitalized.

In a video statement released from Hawaii, Prime Minister Tony Abbott described the man as a terror suspect who had mounted a fierce attack on the two officers, one of whom Abbott said was seriously hurt.



A forensic officer documents objects including a blanket at the scene of a fatal shooting at Endeavour Hills Police Station in Melbourne, Wednesday, Sept. 24, 2014. A suspected terrorist was shot dead and two counterterrorism police were stabbed Tuesday in a confrontation in Australia's second largest city that some experts suspect is inspired by the Islamic State group's call to supporters to wage terror in their home countries.

(AP Photo/AAP Image, Julian Smith)

"Obviously this indicates there are people in our community who are capable of very extreme

acts," said Abbott, who was on his way to New York for meetings at the United Nations. "It also indicates

that the police will be constantly vigilant to protect us against people who would do us harm."

The shooting follows recent warnings by the government that dozens of Australians are believed to be fighting overseas for the Islamic State and other extremist groups, constituting what officials called a threat to domestic security. The man killed Tuesday first became a "person of interest" to police about two months ago, and his passport was confiscated about a week ago, senior police officials said Wednesday at a news conference.

The officials, Acting Commissioner Andrew Colvin of the Australian Federal Police and Commissioner Ken Lay of the Victoria State Police, said the man had been seen carrying an Islamic State flag at a local shopping center. Colvin would not say why the man's passport had been taken or whether he was believed to have been planning to leave Australia. □

Islamic extremists surrender in Nigeria, Cameroon

BASHIR ADIGUN

DIVINE NTARYIKE

Associated Press

ABUJA, Nigeria (AP) — Hundreds of Islamic extremists have surrendered in Nigeria and neighboring Cameroon following the military's recent victories with air and ground attacks, military authorities said Wednesday.

The Nigerian Defense Ministry has said it has killed hundreds of insurgents recently in the country's northeast. Several militant command-

ers were among the dead including Mohammed Bashir, whom the Nigerian military identified as a double who posed in videos as Boko Haram leader Abubakar Shekau, a military statement said Wednesday.

The military has claimed Shekau was killed in battle last year.

Nigeria's military said it was victorious around Konduga town just 35 kilometers (22 miles) from Maiduguri, birth-

place of Boko Haram and the headquarters of the military offensive to contain the Islamic uprising.

"It became apparent that the terrorists ... were determined to take over communities around Maiduguri, which is their prime target," the statement said, adding the insurgents made four attempts to take Konduga between Sept. 12 and 17. It said 135 insurgents surrendered Tuesday night, some at Buni-Yadi some 200 ki-

lometers (125 miles) west of Konduga and others at Michika, 165 kilometers (100 miles) south of Konduga.

Cameroon's defense ministry said more than 300 Boko Haram fighters have surrendered there in the past three weeks. Spokesman Lt. Col. Didier Badjeck told The Associated Press that the militants have given up their arms and asked for asylum in Cameroon. Their fate has not been decided.

Fighters from neighboring Cameroon, Niger and Chad have been identified fighting alongside Nigeria's homegrown Boko Haram group, which in recent weeks also has been attacking border towns and villages in Cameroon.

Boko Haram had seized a string of towns and declared an Islamic caliphate in a corner of northeast Nigeria before the setback suffered at Konduga. □

AROUND LATIN AMERICA

Sentences in Miss Venezuela's slaying

CARACAS, Venezuela (AP) — Three men who confessed to killing a former Miss Venezuela and her husband in a crime that shocked a nation increasingly accustomed to violence have each been sentenced to more than 20 years in jail. The sentences were handed down Tuesday by a court in Valencia, near where Monica Spear and husband Thomas Henry Berry were slain in January when they resisted a robbery attempt while they were stranded on a lonely stretch of highway. Five more defendants remain on trial, Venezuela's Supreme Court said. Oil-rich Venezuela has one of the world's highest homicide rates, and President Nicolas Maduro has said combatting violent crime is one of his top priorities. Spear was a 2004 Miss Venezuela and popular soap opera actress.

Colombia: parts of peace accord public

BOGOTA, Colombia (AP) — Colombia's government and Marxist rebels are releasing parts of a draft peace agreement to deflect criticism that the country's democratic institutions are being redrawn behind people's backs. The more than 60 pages of documents published Wednesday come from three of the six agenda items on which the two sides have already agreed: agrarian reform, political participation for demobilized rebels, and how to jointly combat illicit drugs. Opponents of the talks have accused President Juan Manuel Santos of overlooking atrocities committed by FARC and ceding their leaders too much power in closed-door talks in Cuba. Santos said in New York on Wednesday that by being more transparent, negotiators hope to counter what he called misleading information spread by groups opposed to the talks.

Argentina uses drones for tax evaders

BUENOS AIRES, Argentina (AP) — Argentine tax evaders beware: The government is using a drone to spot you. The Buenos Aires province's tax agency said Wednesday that it has used drones to identify some 200 mansions and about 100 swimming pools that haven't been declared by their owners. The tax agency says the unmanned aircraft flew over an exclusive neighborhood near the city of Buenos Aires and took images of luxury houses standing on lots registered as being empty. Owners of the properties have been told to get their papers in order and get ready to pay hefty fines on a total tax evasion estimated at \$2 million. The cost of each drone is about \$10,000. The technology is also often used by Argentine security forces.

New leader for Venezuelan opposition

CARACAS, Venezuela (AP) — Venezuela's opposition parties have named a crusading journalist and political newcomer to head the perennially fractious coalition confronting President Nicolas Maduro's socialist government. In accepting the position Wednesday, Jesus Torrealba said he hopes to broaden the Democratic Unity alliance's appeal to poorer Venezuelans hurt most by the bad economy but who largely were on the sidelines of anti-government demonstrations that rocked the country earlier this year. Torrealba replaces Ramon Guillermo Aveledo, who resigned the post he held for five years after infighting erupted among the 27-party coalition between hard-liners wanting to push for Maduro's resignation and moderates favoring negotiations to set the stage for a strong showing in 2015 legislative elections.

Mexico: Fisherman rescued after a week at sea

MEXICO CITY (AP) — People aboard a Mexican pleasure boat rescued a fisherman who had been adrift at sea for a week after his boat was swamped by Tropical Storm Polo. Crew members of the 42-foot (12.8-meter) sailboat U-Fin videoed the thin, exhausted man as he floated in a giant foam cooler about 6 miles (10 kilometers) off Acapulco on Monday and then brought him aboard.

The U-Fin's captain, Roberto Odis Vazquez, said Wednesday that the rescued man had caught a seagull for food and didn't want to let the carcass go when he was rescued.

"The poor man, he didn't want to let go of that seagull. He wanted to bring it with him to eat," Odis Vazquez said. "It would bring tears to anybody's eyes."

Odis Vazquez said the man

told of his fishing boat being swamped in high waves and said he threw out his catch and took refuge in the huge ice chest used to store catches.

Enrique Dominguez, an official at the Acapulco Port Captain's Office, identified the rescued fisherman as Raymundo Rodriguez, 45, who set out from a beach near Acapulco on Sept. 14 along with another man, Mario Morales, 69, on a fishing trip. □



Mexican fisherman Raymundo Rodriguez, who had been adrift at sea for a week, rests on a boat after he was rescued off the coast of Mexico. Rodriguez was rescued by people aboard a Mexican pleasure boat after his fishing boat was swamped by Tropical Storm Polo. Crew members found the exhausted man as he floated in a large foam cooler about 6 miles (10 kilometers) off Acapulco. Rodriguez said his fishing companion Mario Morales died farther out to sea.

(AP Photo/Courtesy of Adonai Vazquez)

Brazil:

Tycoon charged with market manipulation

**STAN LEHMAN
Associated Press**

SAO PAULO (AP) — Federal prosecutors in Sao Paulo have charged Brazilian tycoon Eike Batista with manipulating the stock market and causing billions of dollars in losses.

The prosecutor's office said in a statement issued late Tuesday that Batista and seven former directors of oil company OGX Petroleo e Gas Participacoes were charged with deceiving investors with false information regarding the compa-

ny's production potential. Prosecutors said the stock manipulation caused the market to lose more than \$6 billion.

A judge must accept the charges before the case can move to trial.

Telephone calls seeking comment from Batista's conglomerate EBX rang unanswered on Wednesday. Prosecutors say OGX, created in 2007, didn't deliver on its promises to produce significant amounts of offshore oil even though it reported many finds since

2010, when its market-value reached \$34 billion. In the first half of 2013, the company averaged output of just 8,500 barrels a day and racked up more than \$2.5 billion in losses.

Critics say Batista lied to investors, citing a correction made in Oct. 2013 for a promising OGX offshore field. In 2012, OGX said the field held nearly 1 billion barrels, but a few weeks later it lowered that projection to 285 million barrels, too late for those who bought stock in the company. □

CARIBBEAN
News BriefsPuerto Rico
Cop charged
with bribery

SAN JUAN, Puerto Rico (AP) — A police officer in Puerto Rico has been charged with bribery and intimidating a witness for allegedly seeking sex from a 22-year-old woman in exchange for dropping a charge against her. Justice officials said in a statement Wednesday that officer Jose Angel Quinones Rodriguez performed a breathalyzer on the woman after she was involved in a car accident in March. Authorities allege Quinones appeared at the woman's house a couple of weeks later saying he could drop the case if she had sex with him. Quinones was ordered held on an \$8,000 bond and is scheduled to appear in court Oct. 2. It was not immediately clear if he has a lawyer.

USVI postal
clerk guilty of
embezzling

CHARLOTTE AMALIE, U.S. Virgin Islands (AP) — A former postal clerk in the U.S. Virgin Islands has been found guilty of embezzling money from the U.S. Postal Service. Following a two-day trial, a federal jury on Tuesday found Rosemarie Peltier guilty of embezzling roughly \$30,000 from a U.S. post office on the island of St. Thomas. The U.S. Department of Justice said evidence at the trial showed the former postal clerk knowingly misused the machine to issue and record money orders between 2010 and 2013. She made false entries for transactions to conceal the money she embezzled. Peltier was found guilty on all counts. She faces a maximum sentence of 10 years and various fines. She is scheduled to be sentenced in January. □

Israelis usher in Jewish New Year with uncertainty

DANIEL ESTRIN

Associated Press

JERUSALEM (AP) — Israelis ushered in the year 5775 as they celebrated the Jewish New Year on Wednesday still shaken from this summer's 50-day war against Hamas militants in the Gaza Strip, distressed by turmoil along their borders, and anticipating a difficult year ahead.

Rosh Hashanah, which begins at sundown, is celebrated not with fireworks and champagne but with family meals and introspection. The devout believe one's destiny is set for the coming year during the two-day holiday, and that in the 10 days of soul-searching that follow -- leading up to the fast day of Yom Kippur -- prayer, charity and repentance can ensure a good year. On the Jewish calendar, it will be 5,775 years since the creation of the world, according to tradition.

Some Israelis are already pessimistic about the new year. A public opinion survey published in Israel's most widely read newspaper, the Israel Hayom freebie, said 70 percent of Israelis polled believe the coming year will bring another round of fighting, and 60 percent doubt peace negotiations will progress. One in three Israelis surveyed said life in Israel isn't good.

The poll, conducted by the New Wave Research Polling Institute, surveyed 500 Jewish Israelis. The margin of error was 4.4 percentage points.

Israel's economy is slowing,



A Jewish man places a note at the Western Wall, the holiest site where Jews can pray, ahead of the Jewish New Year in Jerusalem's old city, Wednesday, Sept. 24, 2014. People of all faiths slip notes between the stones in the belief that god will answer their prayers.

(AP Photo/Sebastian Scheiner)

the government's statistics bureau said this week. Tourism to the country plummeted due to the Israel-Hamas war, and Israel's National Security Council said Israeli tourists traveling abroad for the Jewish holiday season face an "increasing potential threat" of attacks against Israeli and Jewish targets, especially in Western Europe by jihadists returning to their home countries from fighting in Syria and Iraq.

Hundreds of families in Israel's rocket-battered south are still recovering after spending much of the summer away from their homes.

"We are going into Rosh Ha-

shanah with a heavy sentiment from the summer, but a lot of hope for the coming year," said Maya Tapiro, 28, a university student, at a cafe in Jerusalem. The past few months saw a rapid succession of events that led to war. There was the collapse of U.S.-led Israeli-Palestinian peace talks in April, followed by a unity deal between the Western-backed Palestinian president in the West Bank and the Hamas militant group in Gaza.

In June Hamas militants kidnapped and killed three Israeli teenagers in the West Bank. The deadly attack sparked an Israeli crackdown on Hamas in the West

Bank, the revenge killing of a Palestinian teenager in Jerusalem by Israeli extremists, and rocket and mortar fire from Gaza that led to a 50-day war. More than 2,100 Palestinians, including hundreds of civilians, were killed, while 66 soldiers and six civilians were killed on the Israeli side.

But in the hours leading up to the holiday, many Israelis were reflecting on things other than war and peace. A television talk show was debating the merits of two rival holiday fish dishes: the European Jewish gefilte fish, a ground carp patty, and the North African Jewish chreime, fish cooked in a spicy red sauce. □

China, Japan resume talks over maritime issues

BEIJING (AP) — China and Japan resumed high-level talks on maritime issues this week, in a sign that they want to improve relations badly strained in recent years by territorial disputes and wartime historical issues.

Senior ministry officials met for two days in China's eastern city of Qingdao to exchange views on issues in the East Chi-

na Sea and maritime cooperation, China's official Xinhua News Agency said Wednesday.

Japan's Foreign Ministry said the two sides agreed to hold talks on setting up a maritime hotline between their defense ministries.

Japan's Kyodo News agency also reported that a Chinese vice premier separately commented on Wednesday that he wants

an early resumption of a high-level economic talks with Japan, which have been suspended since 2010.

Wang Yang, the vice premier who oversees international trade, made the remarks when he met a Japanese business mission headed by Toyota Motor Corp. Honorary Chairman Fujio Cho, Kyodo said.

Anti-Japanese sentiments have been running high in China since 2012 over a disputed chain of uninhabited islets in East China Sea, which is known as Diaoyu in Chinese and the Senkakus in Japanese.

Beijing also has clashed with Tokyo over lingering wartime issues and criticized Japan for its militant aggression against China during World War II. □

LOCAL Aruba TODAY

**At De Palm Island and beyond:
De Palm Tours participates
in Aruba Reef Care # 20**



BALASHI - Employees of De Palm Island and De Palm Tours collaborated in the 20th edition of the Aruba Reef Care Project which was held this month. Large quantities of bags were filled with different kinds of garbage like plastic bags, bottles, clothing and much more.

The beach and reef surrounding De Palm Island in Balashi is kept clean by the staff members on a daily basis and this time a more extended area was covered including the coastline at Port De Palm and the mangroves. The activities SNUBA® and SEA TREK® were closed for this day so the divers could help with the Reef Care Project. Whoever was not a diver

helped with the cleaning of the coast, beaches and in the mangroves.

De Palm Tours wants to thank the staff members and volunteers who helped during this day and of course the organizers of this event.

The Aruba Reef Care Project was launched in 1994 with the purpose of cleaning all the reefs all around the island but also to create awareness on the importance of maintaining our reefs and environment clean and to protect our marine life.

De Palm Tours is your one-stop portal to fun and adventure with a wide variety in tours and activities. Go off-road in a Land Rover, drive yourself through the



outback in an UTV, explore the island in a comfortable way with our bus tours and combine snorkeling and sailing with our Palm Pleasure catamaran tours. To get a view of the underwater world without get-

ting wet, take the Atlantis Submarine or Seaworld Explorer semi-submarine. For a complete day of fun including F&B visit De Palm Island, Aruba's only all-inclusive destination at an affordable all-inclusive price. Whether you are a family looking for a day of fun and adventure together or a couple seeking to escape the hustle and bustle of the busy beach area for some relaxation and pampering, this island offers something for everyone! Just bring your towel, swimwear and camera and enjoy. A day at De Palm Island includes alcoholic and non-alcoholic beverages, breakfast and lunch buffet, beaches and beach chairs, palapas, unlimited banana boat rides, a waterpark, snorkeling and much more.

Tickets are for sale online via www.depalmours.com, at your hotel concierge desk, at De Palm Tours Sales Center (LG Smith Blvd., one block from Certified). For more information visit our website or www.facebook.com/ArubaActivities, your concierge or call (+297) 522-4500. □

Loyal Visitors Honored at the Aruba Beach Club



EAGLE BEACH - Recently, John and Mary Thwaites and Gerardo and Alicia Diaz were honored as Ambassadors of Goodwill after returning to Aruba for more than 30 consecutive years. The symbolic honorary title is presented in the name of the Minister of Tourism as a token of appreciation to

guests who visit Aruba for 20-or-more years consecutive. Mr. Ricardo Croes representing Aruba Tourism Authority conducted the ceremony at the Aruba Beach Club.

Mrs. Diaz commented that she will never change her vacation island for any other island.

Top reasons for returning provided by the honorees were they consider Aruba to be the "Happy Island," the great weather, the friendly Aruban hospitality, the white sand beaches and the local food.

Mr. Croes from ATA is seen together with the honorees at the Aruba Beach Club.□



Catch your own dinner with Driftwood!

Motto at Driftwood Restaurant: "from the pier to your plate!"



ORANJESTAD - The downtown marina is home of Driftwood Fishing Charters, the successful fisherman of the established seafood restaurant Driftwood in Oranjestad. Driftwood owner Herby

Merryweater has a love and passion for fishing. A fisherman who knows about fish, what our local waters have to offer, and what the words :fresh seafood" really mean. What Herby catches will be served in his restaurant on the same day. Herby loves to share his fishing passion with the many visitors to the island. His fleet of a 35ft. Twin Engine Bertram yacht and a 50ft. Twin Engine Post yacht, appropriately called "Driftwood I and II, is available for charters on 12 noon and from 1pm to 5pm.



Winners of Intl. LUHRS Marina Group Blue Marlin Release Tournament 2009



Catch your own dinner

A charter includes: captain, mate all fishing equipment, bait, sodas and bottled water. On a full day charter sandwiches and snacks are also included.

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SEPTEMBER MADNESS

Aruba's Top Chef Heads to Divi...**Matt Boland Joins Divi Resorts as Regional Executive Chef**

Matt Boland, newly named regional executive chef for Divi Resorts.

ORANJESTAD/Chapel Hill, NC - Matt Boland, a veteran and culinary star of the Aruba hospitality industry, has joined Divi Resorts as regional executive chef. Boland is in charge of food and beverage operations for the company's more than twenty restaurants at its properties in Aruba, Barbados, Bonaire, St. Croix and St. Maarten. Boland is the first to hold this new position for Divi Resorts, and he is tasked with creating new menus, conceptualizing future restaurant ideas and unifying standards of culinary excellence. He also will be expanding "Pure Ocean," Divi's proprietary restaurant brand, in key locations. He reports to Marco Galaverna, president and chief operating officer of Divi Resorts.

The assignment brings Boland full circle with Divi Resorts. A native of upstate New York, Boland moved to Aruba in 1993, at the invitation of the owner of Divi Resorts, who frequented an exceptional French restaurant in Ithaca, New York, where Boland was head chef.

In more recent years, Boland was the initial consultant to Divi Resorts for "Pure Beach," a lounge created for Divi Aruba Phoenix Beach Resort in 2009. Its success, which introduced a Euro-Caribbean chic ambiance to Aruba casual dining, resulted in the remaking of the resort's existing restaurant into "Pure Ocean," and the eventual extension of the concept to other Divi resorts.

A self-taught chef with

training in classic French kitchens in Paris, Boland's skills, award-winning accomplishments and creativity have earned him executive chef assignments at Aruba's biggest resorts, including Wyndham, Radisson and Westin hotels.

Under his direction, the Sunset Grille became a AAA Four Diamond restaurant, one of only two restaurants in Aruba in the last 10 years to achieve the standing, and a perennial traveler favorite. Along with numerous industry accolades and awards, Boland has cooked at the famous James Beard House in New York City, "a career milestone for any chef," he said.

He is Aruba's celebrity chef and the Tourism Authority's

popular choice to wow attendees at travel shows with food demonstrations and tastings. He is also the author of "Aruba Trips for Travelers," published in 2005.

"Matt has unflagging energy, creativity and passion for developing fresh concepts, welcoming environments and delicious experiences," said Galaverna. "We are thrilled that Matt is back with Divi Resorts. We know he will make Divi the dining destination on every one of our islands."

About Divi Resorts: Divi

premium resorts spanning five stunning Caribbean islands. With vacation stays as well as full and fractional ownership, the resorts provide myriad vacation pleasures from relaxing on white sand beaches, indulging in spa services, embarking on scuba diving adventures to perfecting one's golf swing. For more information on Divi Resorts call 1.800.367.3484, or visit www.diviresorts.com. The Divi Resorts logo is the Service Mark of Divi Hotels, Inc.; its use represents the group of resort companies



Vegetable lasagna, one of the signature dishes of Matt Boland, regional executive chef for Divi Resorts.

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Bugaloe Beach Bar & Grill welcomes back visitors Jeff and Tonda Hiestand!

PALM BEACH – Have you already heard of the relaxing beach bar & grill Bugaloe, and their special guests of the week? This week Jeff and Tonda Hiestand found their way back to the Palm Pier Bar between Riu and Radisson hotel.

They have been finding their way to Bugaloe for over 6 years now! Jeff and Tonda love coming to Aruba, and have made it their annual relaxation trip down from West Virginia, U.S. Why wouldn't they? They love

the beautiful beaches Aruba has to offer, next to the friendly people and exquisite restaurants.

Jeff and Tonda discovered Bugaloe the first year they visited Aruba, and just fell in love with the whole atmosphere, the fun staff and delicious food.

And by food we mean their favorite menu items: Hot Dogs with Bugaloe fries.

Just perfect alongside an ice cold Corona. When they are not at Bugaloe, they love enjoying the Aru-

ban weather by lying on the beach and getting that beautiful sun kissed tan! When asked what their funniest memories of Bugaloe were, they both responded: 'that time JC was standing on a milk crate to 'look' taller! Oh, and the stories of Martin falling down constantly, of course!

The Bugaloe Crew would like to thank Jeff and Tonda for being such loving and loyal guests and hope to welcome them back for many years to come! □



SPORTS**Aruba TODAY**

New world champion Britain's Bradley Wiggins kisses the gold medal on the podium after winning the men's individual time trial event over 47.1 kilometers (29.3 miles) at the Road Cycling World Championships in Ponferrada, north-western Spain, Wednesday Sept. 24, 2014. Associated Press

Bradley Wiggins wins world road time trial, Spain

PONFERRADA, Spain (AP) — Bradley Wiggins of Britain powered across the finish line 26.23 seconds ahead of his nearest rival to claim his first road cycling world title on Wednesday with a convincing victory in the time-trial event.

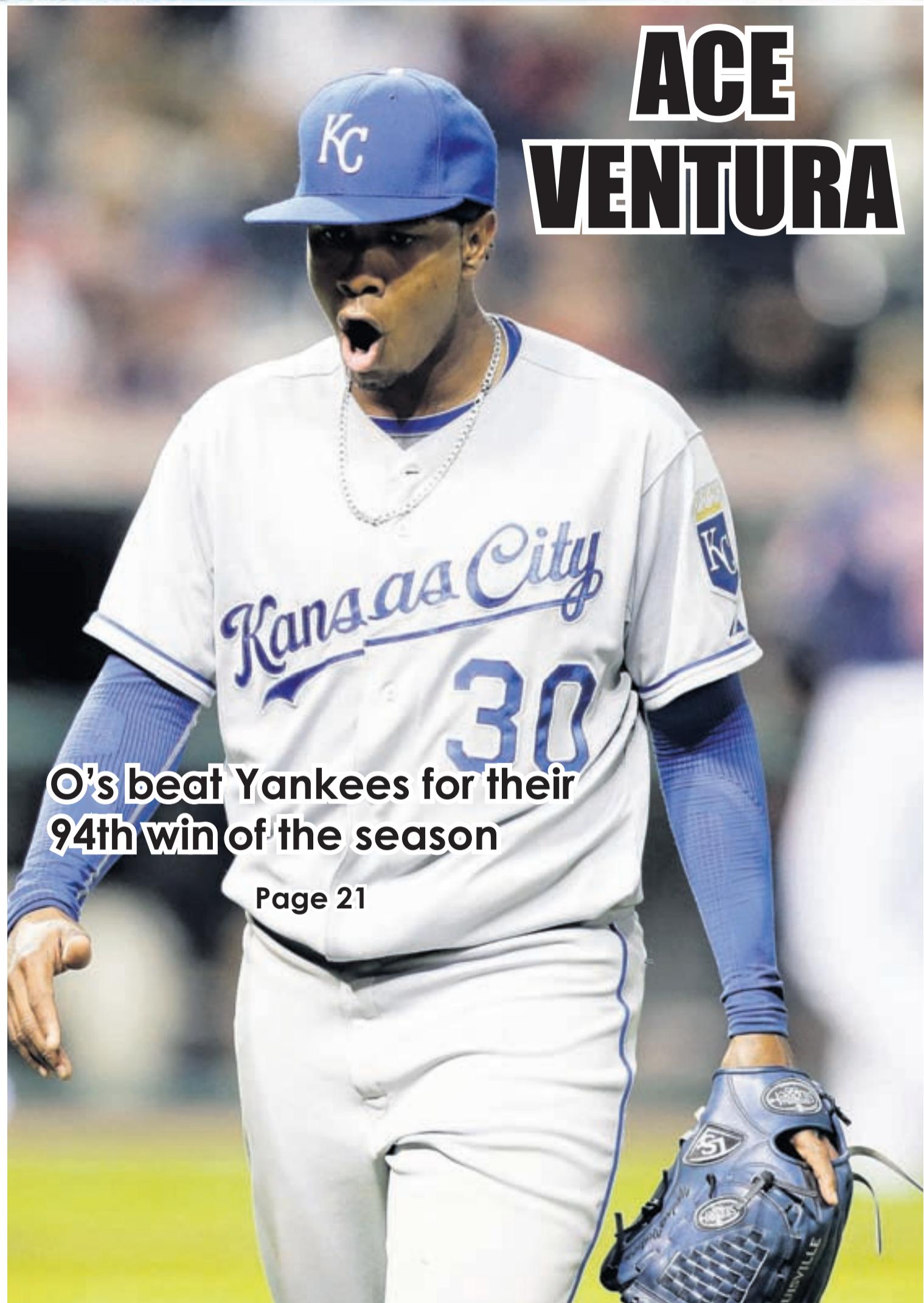
Wiggins, who won silver in 2011 and 2013, clocked 56 minutes, 25 seconds to take the title off second-place Tony Martin of Germany, who was bidding for a fourth straight championship. Tom Dumoulin of the Netherlands finished third, 40.64 seconds behind.

The 34-year-old Wiggins won Olympic gold in the men's time trial in 2012 and did not contest the road race in Ponferrada in order to focus on Wednesday's event.

"Job done," Wiggins said. "I paced it perfectly. I still had gas in the final stretch. □



ACE VENTURA



O's beat Yankees for their 94th win of the season

Page 21

Kansas City Royals' Yordano Ventura reacts after striking out Cleveland Indians' Jose Ramirez with the bases loaded in the seventh inning of a baseball game, Tuesday, Sept. 23, 2014, in Cleveland.

Associated Press

Tony Stewart will not face charges in deadly crash

JENNA FRYER

CAROLYN THOMPSON

Associated Press

CANANDAIGUA, New York

(AP) — Three-time NASCAR champion Tony Stewart will not be charged with the death of a fellow driver at a sprint car race, prosecutors said Wednesday in disclosing for the first time that the victim had enough marijuana in his system the night he died to impair his judgment.

A grand jury that heard testimony from more than two dozen witnesses, including accident reconstruction experts and drivers, and looked at photographs and video, decided against bringing criminal charges against Stewart for the death of 20-year-old sprint car driver Kevin Ward Jr. during an Aug. 9 race in upstate New York.

That doesn't mean it's over. A few hours after Ontario County District Attorney Michael Tantillo announced the grand jury's decision, the Ward family indicated in a statement read over the telephone by sister Kayla Herring that they will seek civil damages in the young driver's death.

"Our son got out of his car during caution when the race was suspended. All the other vehicles were

reducing speed and not accelerating except for Stewart, who intentionally tried to intimidate Kevin by accelerating and sliding his car toward him, causing the tragedy," the family said Wednesday. "The focus should be on the actions of Mr. Stewart. This matter is not at rest and we will pursue all remedies in fairness to Kevin."

The family might have a difficult task: Tantillo disclosed the influence of marijuana and used two different enhanced videos which showed Stewart had done nothing wrong.

"The videos did not demonstrate any aberrational driving by Tony Stewart until the point of impact with Kevin Ward, at which point his vehicle veered to the right up the track as a result of the collision. Prior to that, his course was pretty straight," said Tantillo.

Stewart's reaction was not one of celebration, and his statement had the same twinge of sadness that he's carried since he returned to NASCAR three weeks ago following three weeks of seclusion after Ward's death.

The 43-year-old NASCAR superstar acknowledged the investigation was "long and emotionally difficult"



In this Sept. 13, 2014, file photo, NASCAR driver Tony Stewart (14) looks out from his garage during a practice for the NASCAR Sprint Cup Series auto race at Chicagoland Speedway in Joliet, Ill.

Associated Press

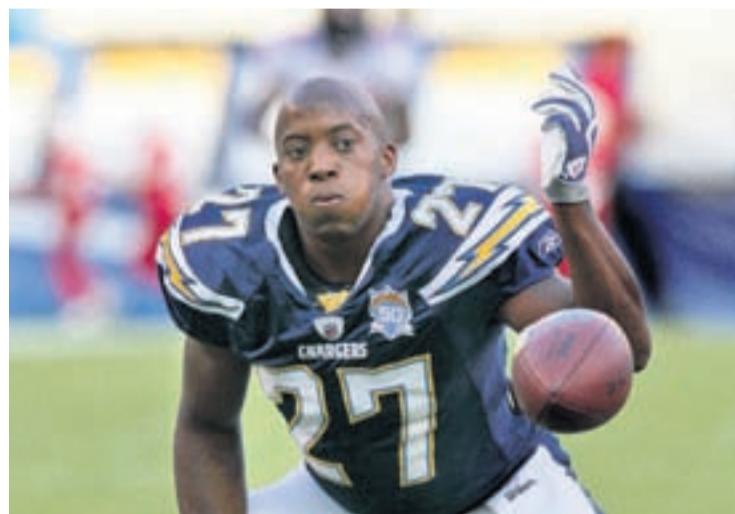
but noted it allowed time for all the facts to be presented. "This has been the toughest and most emotional experience of my life, and it will stay with me forever. I'm very grateful for all the support I've received and continue to receive," he said. "While much of the attention has been on me, it's important to remember a young man lost his life. Kevin Ward Jr.'s family and friends will always be in my thoughts and prayers."

Authorities said the first car to pass Ward had to swerve to miss hitting him. The front of Stewart's car appeared to clear Ward, but Ward was struck by the right rear tire and hurtled through the air. He died of blunt force trauma.

The investigating sheriff asked in the days after Ward's death for spectators to turn over photos and videos of the crash. Among the things being looked at were the dim lighting, how

muddy it was and whether Ward's dark race suit played a role in his death, given the conditions.

"I am sure from their deliberations and discussions that the fact that Kevin Ward was observed running basically down two thirds of the track, into a hot track, into the middle of other cars that were racing, played a big, big factor in their decision," he said. "Judgment is probably the most important factor in this case."



In this Sept. 4, 2009, file photo, San Diego Chargers cornerback Paul Oliver stretches prior to an NFL preseason football game against the San Francisco 49ers at Qualcomm Stadium in San Diego.

Associated Press

LOS ANGELES (AP) — The wife and sons of former San Diego Chargers defensive back Paul Oliver are taking legal action against the NFL for wrongful death, blaming sports-related

concussions for his suicide last year.

The suit was filed Monday in Los Angeles County Superior Court against the league, the Chargers, the New Orleans Saints and the

Paul Oliver's family sues NFL over his suicide

corporations that own several helmet manufacturers. It also alleges fraud and negligence.

It says that Oliver, 29, shot himself to death in front of his wife, Chelsea, and two sons last September at his home in Marietta, Georgia, about 20 miles northwest of Atlanta.

The suit alleges that his death was a "direct result of the injuries, depression and emotional suffering caused by repetitive head trauma and concussions suffered as a result of playing football, not properly appreciating football's risks with respect to head traum-

ma" and using defective helmets.

The suit claims that Oliver suffered "mood, memory and anger issues" associated with repetitive head trauma and that after his death, a pathologist confirmed that he had chronic traumatic encephalopathy.

That is a progressive degenerative brain disease found in athletes and others with a history of repetitive brain trauma, according to the CTE Center at Boston University's medical school. The suit contends that the NFL and others knew for decades about risks associ-

ated with such injuries but concealed the information, leaving Oliver ignorant about the risks of play when making football decisions "from his first snap of youth football to his tragic death."

It also claims the NFL encourages players to disregard the results of violent head impacts and glorifies the "brutality and ferocity" of football as a marketing strategy.

The Saints declined to comment. Messages left for representatives of the NFL and Chargers weren't immediately returned after hours Tuesday night.

AP Source: Suns, Bledsoe agree to 5-yr, \$70m deal

BOB BAUM

AP Sports Writer

PHOENIX (AP) — The Phoenix Suns and point guard Eric Bledsoe have reached agreement on a five-year, \$70 million contract, a person with knowledge of the deal told The Associated Press.

The person spoke Wednesday on condition of anonymity because the agreement has not been officially announced.

The deal is considerably more than the four-year, \$48 million the Suns initially offered but well below the five-year, \$80 million-plus maximum contract Bledsoe's agent, Rich Paul, sought for the restricted free agent.

The sides didn't budge in their negotiations until talks finally progressed in the last few days.

Bledsoe faced an Oct. 1 deadline to sign a \$3.7 million qualifying offer to play for the Suns this season, then become an unrestricted free agent.

"Happy to be back in the

valley of the (Sun)!!!," Bledsoe said in a tweet. "Clutch my brother Rich Paul."

It was accompanied by an Instagram photo of Bledsoe signing his contract. Paul is Bledsoe's agent and also represents LeBron James.

The Suns see Bledsoe as a critical part of their double point-guard system. He missed much of last season after undergoing his second surgery to repair a meniscus in his right knee.

When Bledsoe teamed with fellow point guard Goran Dragic last year, the Suns won two-thirds of their games. But injuries kept the duo apart, most significantly the knee surgery.

While the Suns covet Bledsoe's skills — particularly his drives to the basket and defense — as well as his obvious upside, they balked at giving the 24-year-old guard a max contract but felt highly enough of him to give a rich deal.

The Suns flourished with their high-energy, double-point

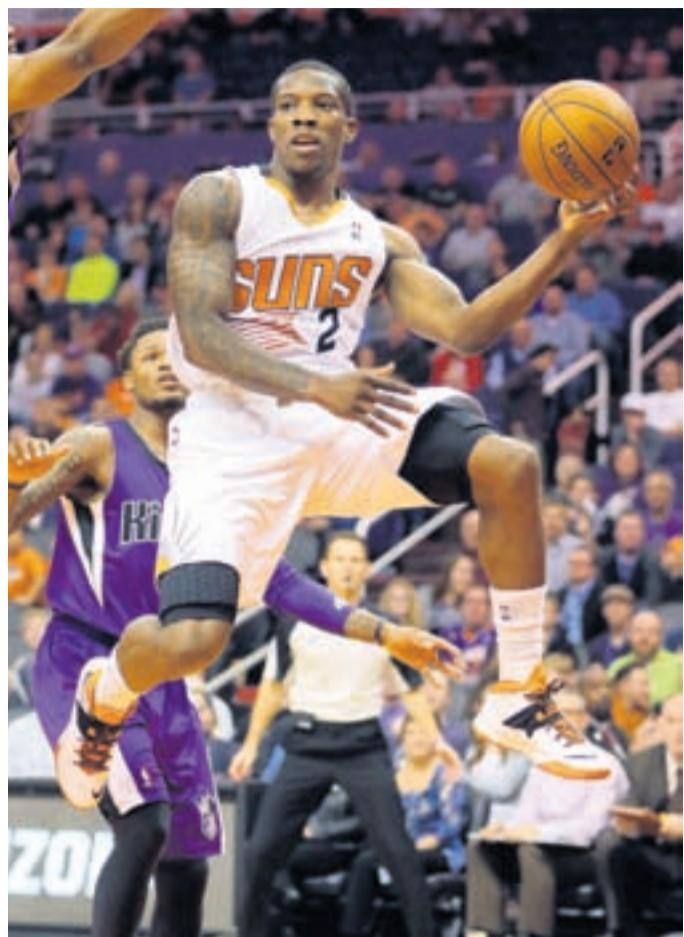
guard system of Bledsoe and Goran Dragic. Despite Bledsoe's knee injury, the Suns won a surprising 48 games and just missed the playoffs.

Bledsoe was the backup to Chris Paul with the Los Angeles Clippers before the Suns acquired him and Caron Butler in a three-team trade that sent journeyman forward Jared Dudley to the Clippers and a second-round draft pick to Milwaukee.

Bledsoe had knee surgery in October of 2011, then again last January.

Injuries limited him to 43 games last season, 40 as a starter. He averaged 17.7 points and 5.5 assists.

Dragic, carrying a bigger load when Bledsoe was out, had a breakout season, averaging 20.3 points and 5.9 assists, shooting 50.5 percent from the field, 41 percent from 3-point range. The Suns added a third point guard to the mix in the offseason, signing high-scoring free-agent Isaiah Thomas.



In this Dec. 13, 2013, file photo, Phoenix Suns' Eric Bledsoe (2) passes against the Sacramento Kings during an NBA basketball game in Phoenix.

Associated Press

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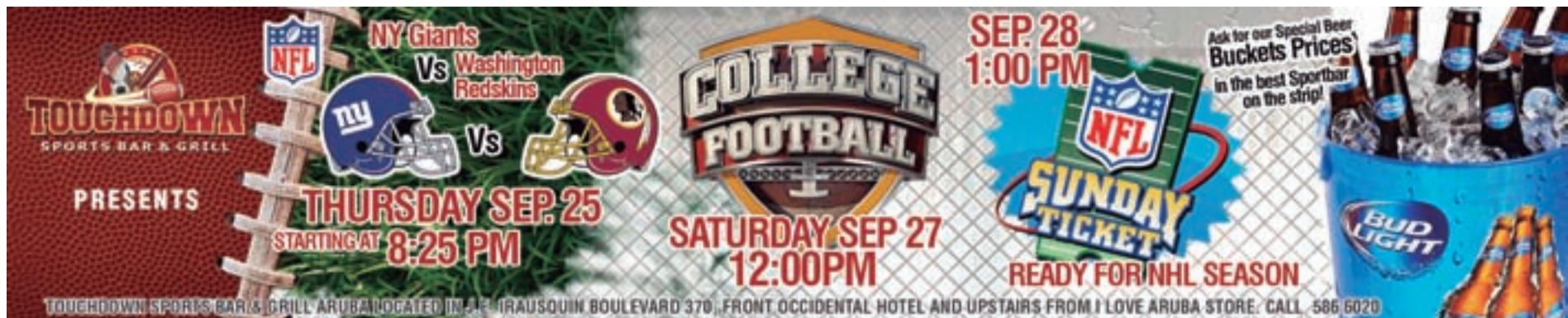
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Pirates clinch playoff berth by beating Braves

The Associated Press

sATLANTA (AP) — Gerrit Cole retired the final 17 hitters he faced, and the surging Pittsburgh Pirates clinched a spot in the playoffs with a 3-2 win over the free-falling Atlanta Braves on Tuesday night.

The Pirates' win combined with Milwaukee's loss to Cincinnati assured Pittsburgh of no worse than an NL wild card. The Pirates wrapped up their berth exactly one year after clinching a place in the 2013 playoffs.

They reacted to the final out on Tuesday with little emotion. The Pirates exchanged high-fives in a line on the field before sharing hugs in front of their dugout.

Starling Marte gave Pittsburgh the lead with a sixth-inning double. The Pirates, who are still chasing St. Louis for the NL Central title, have won 11 of 13.

DODGERS 4, GIANTS 2

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Justin Turner homered twice and Matt Kemp had a two-run shot in a testy first inning, helping the Los Angeles Dodgers beat the second-place Giants to stretch their NL West lead to 4 1/2 games.

The Giants' seventh loss in 10 games kept them from clinching a playoff berth after Milwaukee lost at Cincinnati.

The Dodgers can win the division title behind ace Clayton Kershaw with a victory in the series finale Wednesday night.

The game got off to a rocky start when both benches and bullpens emptied after left-hander Madison Bumgarner hit Dodgers star Yasiel Puig in the left foot with a pitch. No punches were thrown and order was soon restored.



Pittsburgh Pirates' Starling Marte, second from left, gets doused with champagne by Jose Tabata, left, and hitting coach Jason Branson while an unidentified person joins in the celebration in the locker room after the Pirates defeated the Atlanta Braves 3-2 in a baseball game to clinch a playoff berth, Tuesday, Sept. 23, 2014, in Atlanta.

Associated Press

NATIONALS 4, METS 2

WASHINGTON (AP) — Nationals center fielder Denard Span left in the third inning after making a diving, tumbling catch, and NL East champion Washington went on to a victory over the Mets.

The win boosted the Nationals' push for home-field advantage during the National League playoffs. They began the day three games ahead of the Los Angeles Dodgers for the league's best record with less than a week left in the regular season.

Span is a key player for the Nationals. A strong defensive presence and their leadoff hitter, he entered with the club's highest batting average at .298 and most stolen bases with 31.

The player who replaced him, rookie Michael Taylor, doubled home Washington's first run in the fifth.

REDS 3, BREWERS 1

CINCINNATI (AP) — Johnny

Cueto kept his hopes of a 20-win season in play, and Todd Frazier and Devin Mesoraco hit back-to-back homers, sending the Reds to a victory that pushed the Brewers to the verge elimination from wild card contention.

Cueto (19-9) gave up Carlos Gomez's homer over eight innings. He'll pitch Cincinnati's final game on Sunday against Pittsburgh at Great American Ball Park.

The Reds haven't had a 20-game winner since left-hander Danny Jackson in 1988. The last Reds right-hander to win 20 games was Sammy Ellis in 1965. The Reds got the better of a matchup between teams with huge second-half fades.

Milwaukee led the NL Central for 150 days, but fell apart at the end. Up by 6 1/2 games on June 28, the Brewers have gone 29-45 and fallen far behind Pitts-

burgh and San Francisco in the wild card race.

MARLINS 2, PHILLIES 0

MIAMI (AP) — Henderson Alvarez pitched into the eighth inning to outduel Cole Hamels and the Marlins beat the Phillies.

Alvarez (12-6) gave up five hits and struck out two over 7 2-3 innings to lower his ERA to 2.70. Jeff Baker and Casey McGehee had RBIs for the Marlins in the 2-hour, 20-minute contest.

Hamels (9-8) allowed seven hits and two runs in seven innings. He struck out four and walked one.

Alvarez issued a two-out walk to Carlos Ruiz in the top of the eighth inning, ending his night after 97 pitches as he was replaced by left-hander Mike Dunn. After Chase Utley singled, Dunn struck out Ryan Howard with runners on first and second to end the inning. Steve Cishek pitched the ninth for his 38th save in 42 chances.

CUBS 4, CARDINALS 3

CHICAGO (AP) — Wellington Castillo homered and drove in the winning run with a 10th-inning single, giving the Cubs a victory over the Cardinals that tightened the NL Central race.

St. Louis' lead was reduced to 1 1/2 games over second-place Pittsburgh, which clinched a playoff berth by beating Atlanta. With four games to play, the Cardinals, who secured a postseason spot last weekend, still have a magic number of four to wrap up their second consecutive division crown.

Castillo finished 2 for 5 with three RBIs. Zac Rosscup (1-0) pitched a scoreless inning for his first major league win.

Pat Neshek (7-2) took the loss. **ROCKIES 3, PADRES 2**

SAN DIEGO (AP) — Drew Stubbs hit a tiebreaking home run leading off the eighth and left fielder Brandon Barnes robbed Rene Rivera of a tying shot in the bottom of the inning to lead the Rockies to a victory against the Padres.

The Padres, who were trying to extend their winning streak to a season-high six games, were assured of their fourth straight losing season. The Padres (75-82) can still finish with their best record in three seasons. They went 76-86 in 2012 and 2013.

Stubbs homered on the first pitch from Dale Thayer (4-4) into the Jack Daniel's party deck atop the right-field wall, his 15th. It was the first run Thayer allowed in nine outings.

Rymer Liriano was shaken up after slamming into the wall trying to make the catch but remained in the game. □

Royals roll on, shut out Indians 7-1

CLEVELAND (AP) — Rookie Yordano Ventura blanked Cleveland's punchless offense for seven innings as the Kansas City Royals kept pressure on first-place Detroit in the AL Central with a win over the Indians.

The hard-throwing Ventura (14-10) allowed four singles and threw a 100 mph fastball on his 104th pitch.

Salvador Perez's two-out, two-run double off Danny Salazar (6-8) put the Royals ahead 5-0 in the fifth and they turned their attention to the left-field scoreboard to monitor the Tigers' score. Kansas City entered one game out of first and with a grasp on one of the league's two wild-card spots. The Royals are closing in on their first postseason appearance since 1985, when they won their only World Series title.

At 86-71, Kansas City matched its win total from last season. It's the first time the Royals have had consecutive seasons with at least 86 victories since 1977-78.

left foot with a pitch. No punches were thrown and order was soon restored.

ANGELS 2, ATHLETICS 0
OAKLAND, Calif. (AP) — Gordon Beckham homered and the Angels dropped the Athletics into a tie for the top AL wild card.

Sonny Gray whiffed Mike Trout three times among his career-best 12 strikeouts,

one month to the day after Jon Lester fanned the Angels slugger three times at the Coliseum. But Gray had nothing to show for it as the Athletics were shut out for the seventh time since Aug. 1.

Oakland and Kansas City are tied for the two wild-card spots at 86-71, three games ahead of Seattle with five to play. The Royals beat Cleveland 7-1 earlier in the night and won the season series with Oakland 5-2, giving Kansas City the tiebreaker.

That means if the Royals and A's win the wild cards and finish with identical records, Kansas City would host their one-game playoff next Tuesday.

TIGERS 4, WHITE SOX 3

DETROIT (AP) — Miguel Cabrera's RBI single in the bottom of the ninth lifted the Tigers to a key victory over the White Sox.

The win kept Detroit a game ahead of Kansas City atop the American League Central and dropped their magic numbers to five for the division and two for the postseason. Ian Kinsler started the bottom of the ninth by bouncing a single over Conor Gillaspie's head at third, and Jake Petricka (1-6) walked Torii Hunter. Cabrera then lined a single to left, with Kinsler scoring from second.

David Price took a three-hit shutout into the ninth.

Adam Eaton singled, Alexei Ramirez doubled and Avisail Garcia hit a two-run single with one out. Paul Konerko singled with two out, moving Garcia to third and Marcus Semien followed with an RBI single.

Joe Nathan (5-4) then came on to get the last out.

ORIOLES 5, YANKEES 4

NEW YORK (AP) — Nelson Cruz hit his major league-leading 40th home run and the Orioles pushed Derek Jeter and the Yankees to the brink of playoff elimination, beating New York. The Yankees fell five games behind for the second AL wild card with only five games left.

Jeter extended his hitting streak to seven games, but struck out on three pitches with a runner on first to end it. The retiring captain has two more home dates scheduled.

The AL East champion Orioles began the day 2 1/2 games behind the Los Angeles Angels, who played later at Oakland, for the best record in the league and home-field advantage for the entire postseason. Cruz boosted his career high with a drive into the left-field seats to open the fifth inning, giving him 107 RBIs. He became the sixth Baltimore player to post a 40-homer season, topped by Chris Davis' 53 last year.

BLUE JAYS 10, MARINERS 2

that span for an ugly ERA of 16.56.

The Mariners fell three games out of the second AL wild-card spot with five games remaining. Despite the win, Toronto was eliminated from playoff contention when Kansas City beat Cleveland.

RAYS 6, RED SOX 2

BOSTON (AP) — Ben Zobrist had three hits and drove in Tampa Bay's first two runs during an eighth inning rally for the Rays in a win over the Red Sox. Alex Cobb pitched seven strong innings and Matt Joyce added a solo homer in the ninth for the Rays in the series opener between the bottom two teams in the AL East. □



Kansas City Royals' Alex Gordon, right, slides safely into home plate as Cleveland Indians' Yan Gomes waits for the ball in the fourth inning of a baseball game, Tuesday, Sept. 23, 2014, in Cleveland. Gordon and Billy Butler scored on Omar Infante's double.

Associated Press

Sharapova knocked out by qualifier at Wuhan Open

WUHAN, China (AP) — Maria Sharapova was knocked out of the Wuhan Open by Swiss qualifier Timea Bacsinszky 7-6 (3), 7-5 in the third round on Wednesday. Sharapova double-faulted six times in the first set, and was twice a break up in the second set, but couldn't shake off Bacsinszky, who earned the biggest win of her career with a win over the Russian ranked No. 4 in

the world. Bacsinszky had two previous top-10 wins, the last in 2010, but both were by retirement.

"She had a really good serving day," Sharapova said of Bacsinszky. "I don't think I did much on my returns, something that's a strength of mine, and I just didn't feel like I used that to my advantage."

Caroline Wozniacki, who has reached the finals of

her last two tournaments, the U.S. Open then Pan Pacific Open last weekend, dismissed Casey Dellacqua of Australia 6-0, 6-3 and will meet Bacsinszky.

A day after advancing at the expense of an ill Serena Williams,

Alize Cornet of France reached the quarterfinals by defeating Belgian wild card Kirsten Flipkens 7-6 (4), 1-6, 6-3. Flipkens led 3-1 in

the last set.

The sixth-seeded Eugenie Bouchard lined up Cornet after beating Alison Riske of the United States 6-2, 6-3.

World No. 3 Petra Kvitova won her first meeting with fellow Czech Karolina Pliskova 6-3, 2-6, 6-4. Kvitova lost her serve once in the last set but wore down Pliskova.

Kvitova moved on to play Caroline Garcia of France,

a 6-3, 6-2 winner against CoCo Vandeweghe of the U.S.

No. 7-seeded Angelique Kerber of Germany eased past Barbora Zahlavova Strycova of the Czech Republic 6-1, 6-1, and set up a quarterfinal against Elina Svitolina of Ukraine, who received a walkover when Garbine Muguruza of Spain couldn't compete due to gastroenteritis. □

The Sunny Side

Dr. Carlos Viana

In the Caribbean Sea, on the sunny side of the world, sits the ABC islands, Aruba, Bonaire and Curaçao. Just twelve degrees latitude south, is the greatest concentration of sunlight on earth, the equator. In latitude, each degree is approximately 69 miles/111 kilometers apart, this means lots of sunshine and ultraviolet (UV) light on our Islands.

Sunlight encourages the production of white blood cells to boost the immune system and fight infection. UV rays from the sun act as a natural antiseptic, helping to combat viruses and bacteria. A little UV light eases common skin problems including acne, dermatitis and psoriasis. Most skin complaints are caused by over-sensitivity. The sun's UV rays help to combat this sensitivity. Not seeing sunlight for prolonged periods, like during grey skies of winter can cause Seasonal Affected Disorder (SAD), where the person can feel "sad" or depressed. The sun even promotes the release of proteins, which makes your body's use of oxygen more effective, helping heart attack patients survive longer. However, you can have too much of a good thing, so limit your exposure to no more than 15 minutes a day before applying a sun cream, and do not go out in the hottest part of the day, between 11:00am and 2:00pm. If

this is not possible, wear protective clothing and sunscreen.

Also influenced by the sun is melatonin, a hormone that naturally makes you sleepy. Melatonin levels rise when the sun goes down to help you sleep. Levels then drop, when the sun rises, waking you up. Insomnia and irregular sleep patterns tend improve in the summer when we are exposed to more sunlight. Are you guilty of staying up late with artificial lighting, or do you work late shifts, thus messing up your body's natural sleep cycle? If melatonin levels are not working correctly, it affects your body's ability to make vitamin D.

Vitamin D is called the "sunshine vitamin" because it can be made in the skin from exposure to sunlight. We assume that those of us, who live in sunny climates, have adequate vitamin D production. However, when we make assumptions, we're limiting ourselves to a narrow view of things. Vitamin D is vital both for healthy bones and preventing rickets, a childhood disorder in which bones become soft and prone to fractures and deformity. Another benefit from Vitamin D – it fights viruses naturally. Vitamin D is actually a group of hormones responsible for enhancing absorption of calcium, iron, magnesium, phosphate and zinc. In humans, the most important



compounds in this group are vitamin D3 and vitamin D2.

In my constant search to stay current and improve the health of my family and patients, I read many studies that said an estimated 1 billion people worldwide, across all ethnicities and age groups have a vitamin D deficiency! This pandemic of vitamin D deficiency has mainly been attributed to lifestyle and environmental factors that reduce exposure to sunlight, which is required for ultraviolet-B (UVB)-induced vitamin D production in the skin.

Dark skin absorbs more UVB in the melanin of their skin than light skin does. This means more sun exposure is required to produce the same amount of vitamin D. Wow! Like many people, I thought dark skin would be more effective in producing Vitamin D not less. I decided to test some of my patients' Vitamin D levels, choosing a variety of ages, sex and body types of those only living in Aruba, where we have strong sunlight. When we received the results that both shocked and humbled me; all of us came out

vitamin D deficient! The initial test was just a small selection of people. Now I recommend checking not only for Vitamin D, but also Cortisol, which shows possible deficiency of melatonin levels, to see if melatonin is affecting vitamin D and if supplementation is needed. This is especially important for patients especially in climates where the sun doesn't shine long and strong, but also here on the sunny side.

Most oil-rich fish such as salmon, mackerel, and herring contain vitamin D3, but we are not getting sufficient amounts of D2 from our foods anymore with modern farming and altered food conditions. Vitamin D is an independent risk factor for premature aging. Emerging research supports the possible role of vitamin D in prevention of cancer, heart disease, fractures and falls, autoimmune diseases, influenza, type-2 diabetes, and depression.

Health care providers have begun to increase their recommendations for vitamin D supplementation to least 1000 IU per day. Personally, I recommend testing your vitamin D status first, then with results, when deficient supplementing with up to 5000 IU of a high quality vitamin D; then testing again after three to six months. Doing this, I have achieved positive results. Get The Point! Making assumptions is natural, but inefficient. By not using all the tools available to be sure what is really happening, the assumption can cost more in the long run.

Contact us about testing your vitamin D levels so we can show you how to adjust your lifestyle and if you need a little "sunshine vitamin" supplementation. Meanwhile, get outside and soak up some sun, or better, join us on one of our beautiful ABC Islands. We're on the sunny side of the "street."

CARLOS VIANA, Ph. D. is an Oriental Medical Doctor (O.M.D.) having studied in China; a US Board Cert. Clinical Nutritionist (C.C.N.), an Addiction Professional (C.Ad.), Chairperson of the Latin American Committee of the International Academy of Oral Medicine and Toxicology (IAOMT), a Rejuvenating Cell Therapist specializing in Age Management, has a weekly radio program, writes and lectures extensively. For information: VIANA HEALING CENTER, Kibaima 7, St Cruz TEL: 585-1270 Web Site: www.vianaheal.com

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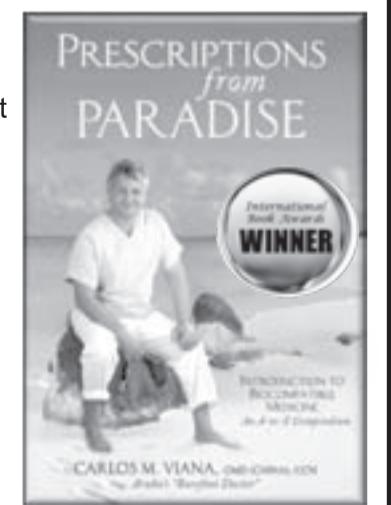



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AP Exclusive: Drones left out of air traffic plans

JOAN LOWY

Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Designers of the ambitious U.S. air traffic control system of the future neglected to take drones into account, raising questions about whether it can handle the escalating demand for the unmanned aircraft and predicted congestion in the sky.

"We didn't understand the magnitude to which (drones) would be an oncoming tidal wave, something that must be dealt with, and quickly," said Ed Bolton, the Federal Aviation Administration's assistant administrator for NextGen, as the program is called.

Congress passed legislation creating NextGen in 2003, and directed the agency to accommodate all types of aircraft, including drones.

The program, which is not expected to be completed for at least another decade, is replacing radar and radio communications, technologies rooted in the early 20th century, with satellite-based navigation and digital communications.

The FAA has spent more than \$5 billion on the complex program and is nearly finished installing hardware and software for several key systems. But the further it progresses, the more difficult it becomes to make changes.

Government and industry officials have long maintained that drones must meet the same rules that apply to manned aircraft if they are to share the sky. That is changing, however, said Chris Stephenson, who represents the National Air Traffic Controllers Association on several U.S. and international unmanned aircraft committees.

"It's becoming painfully apparent that in order to get (drones) in there, there is going to have to be a fair amount of accommodation, at least in the beginning," he said.

Michael Whitaker, the FAA's deputy administrator, acknowledged that

drones "weren't really part of the equation when you go back to the origin of NextGen," but now need to be considered.

The NextGen plans for the next five years do not address how drones will fit into a system designed for planes with pilots on board, but the agency will have consider whether to do that, Whitaker told a recent meeting of the NextGen Institute, a nonprofit association sponsored by the FAA so that industry can assist with research.

Most of the initial demand to fly unmanned aircraft came from the departments of Defense and Homeland Security, which wanted to test military drones or use them to monitor U.S. borders.

Later, interest began to build around potential uses for smaller drones, especially by police departments, but also for those wanting to spray crops, monitor pipelines and inspect offshore oil platforms. These drones can weigh anywhere from a few pounds (kilograms) to several hundred.

More recently, commercial demand has soared — from wedding videographers and real estate



In this March 12, 2014 file photo, a drone prepares to land after flying over the scene of an explosion that leveled two apartment buildings in East Harlem in New York.

Associated Press

agents to Amazon and Google, eyeing potential package deliveries.

The FAA bans commercial drone operations with a few, limited exceptions. That ban, however, is undermined almost daily by frustrated small drone operators.

Bolton, also addressing the institute, said the NextGen office recently assembled a drone research team, he said.

FAA officials are under

pressure from Congress and industry to loosen restrictions on smaller drones. The agency is expected to propose safety rules in November for businesses that want to operate them.

Smaller drones are less an issue for NextGen because the FAA is expected to limit their altitudes to less than 400 feet (120 meters). Air traffic controllers generally don't separate aircraft at such low altitudes, except near airports.

But there is also concern about potential traffic and collisions with low-flying smaller drones. NASA researchers are working with the FAA and industry to develop an air traffic control system for aircraft flying at 500 feet (150 meters) or lower. There is no such system today except around airports.

Medium to large drones that are eventually expected to fly in "Class A" airspace — over 18,000 feet (5,500 meters), where they must be able to avoid collisions with other aircraft — are more of a problem for NextGen.

They will be controlled by a ground pilot, who will be able to see where the drone is on a computer screen and can communicate with controllers. But there won't be a pilot on board who can look out and adjust course to avoid a collision.

There are other differences as well.

Pilots who fly in Class A airspace file flight plans identifying their routes. But some larger drones are expected to stay aloft at high altitudes for days or weeks at a time, and their flight plans will be much more complex.

ERAM, a NextGen computer system that controllers use to guide high-altitude air traffic, □

Island to get 1st German drone delivery service

BERLIN (AP) — Deutsche Post DHL says it is starting Germany's first drone package delivery service, a test program transporting medicine to a pharmacy on a North Sea island.

The company said the quad-rotor "DHL Paketkopter 2.0" will begin daily flights Friday, bringing a maximum load of 1.2 kilograms (2.65 pounds) of medicine to the German island of Juist.

The island has about 1,500 inhabitants. It's usually served by one ferry per day and an occasional small-aircraft flight, depending on the weather.

DHL said Wednesday it will monitor each 12-kilometer (7.5-mile) flight to the island, but the water, snow and dust-resistant drone will fly on autopilot to deliver the medicine — at no extra cost during the test. The company says it currently has no concrete plans for full-scale regular drone deliveries. □



This Sept. 2014 photo provided by Deutsche Post/DHL shows a DHL drone near a beach in Germany. Deutsche Post/DHL says Wednesday, Sept. 24, 2014, it is starting Germany's first ever drone package delivery service, a test program transporting medication to a pharmacy on a difficult-to-access North Sea island.

Associated Press

Wall Street advances after 3 days of declines

KEN SWEET

AP Business Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — U.S. stocks rebounded Wednesday and had their best performance in more than a month, led by gains in health care and consumer staples companies. Once again, investors were willing to step in to buy any noticeable dip in the market, even as more bad news emerged about Europe's economy and worries over violence in Iraq and Syria continued. The Dow Jones industrial average advanced 154.19 points, or 0.9 percent, to 17,210.06, its best day since Aug. 18. The Standard & Poor's 500 index rose 15.53 points, or 0.8 percent, to 1,998.30 and the Nasdaq composite rose 46.53 points, or 1 percent, to 4,555.22.

The gains came after three days of losses for the S&P 500 and two straight days of triple-digit losses for the Dow Jones industrial average. With the gains Wednesday, the Dow recovered more than half of what it lost Monday and Tuesday.

The biggest gainer in the S&P 500 was Bed Bath & Beyond, which rose \$4.64, or 7.4 percent, to \$67.33. The home furnishings company reported a quarterly profit of \$1.17 a share, two cents above analysts' expectations. The company also raised its full-year forecast.

Wal-Mart rose \$1.48, or 2 percent, to \$77.08, making it the second-biggest advancer in the Dow. The retail giant took a big step into the financial services sector, announcing a new checking account program for customers in collaboration with Green Dot.

had expected. Even with Wednesday's gain, there's a lot of caution in the market, traders say.

Investors continue to focus on Europe's economic malaise and tensions in the Middle East after the U.S. and several Arab nations

a closely watched business gauge for the region fell to a nine-month low. The eurozone's economy has been flat or barely growing since April, hobbled by the lingering effects of a debt crisis, uncertainty over a conflict in Ukraine and a lack of confidence among



Trader Patrick Forbes, left, works on the floor of the New York Stock Exchange. U.S. stocks rebounded Wednesday and had their best performance in more than a month, led by gains in health care and consumer staples companies.

(AP Photo/Richard Drew)

The news sent Green Dot shares soaring \$4.59, or 24 percent, to \$23.41.

Investors also got a positive report on the U.S. economy. Sales of new homes jumped 18 percent in August, reaching an annual rate of 504,000, according to the Commerce Department, far better than the 430,000 rate economists

attacked the Islamic State group's headquarters in Syria.

The Ifo business confidence index in Germany, Europe's largest economy, dropped for a fifth month in September. The decline was larger than expected and confirmed that Europe's economy remains weak. The day before,

consumers, businesses and banks.

"It's clear now that the Russian sanctions are causing a slowdown in the European economy, particularly manufacturing," said Anastasia Amoroso, a global markets strategist at JPMorgan Funds. "But we see this as a temporary soft patch." □

Airbus: long-term aircraft demand up

PARIS (AP) — European jet maker Airbus is raising its long-term forecast for new airplane demand by more than 7 percent, based on expected orders of smaller, more fuel-efficient planes and burgeoning travel in Asia.

Airbus' top salesman, John Leahy, said Wednesday that air traffic will grow 4.7 percent annually over the next 20 years.

That will require 31,400 new passenger and freighter aircraft, of which 12,400 will replace existing planes with more efficient ones. The forecast is an increase from last year's, in which Airbus predicted 29,220 aircraft would need to be built through to 2033.

Airbus values the new aircraft needs at \$4.6 billion. Single-aisle aircraft are expected to account for 70 percent of the new production, while 9,300 widebody aircraft will have to be built. By 2033, the worldwide fleet will double to 37,500, Airbus predicts.

The company said demographic and economic trends in Asia are driving the growth in demand.

The forecast is slightly lower than that of Airbus' great rival, Boeing. In July, the U.S. jet maker forecast deliveries of 36,770 new aircraft over the next 20 years.

The two jet makers' forecasts diverge most sharply in the market for very large aircraft, where Airbus has staked out a claim with its A380 super-jumbo 550-seater. Airbus sees the market for the A380 and Boeing's rival 747 at 1,500 aircraft over the next 20 years, down from its forecast of 1,700 last year.

Rival Boeing predicts airlines will need less than half that, or 620 very large aircraft over that timeframe.

On Thursday, Airbus will stage the first flight of its A320neo, a revamped more fuel-efficient version of its best-selling single aisle family of jets.

Leahy told reporters that Airbus is "seriously considering" ramping up production of its widebody twin-engine jets, the A350 XWB and the A330neo. □

Struggling BlackBerry releases new phone

ROB GILLIES

Associated Press

TORONTO (AP) — BlackBerry launched a new smartphone Wednesday as the embattled Canadian company hopes for a comeback.

Chief executive John Chen unveiled a large-screen, square sized phone called the Passport to a Toronto audience. London and Dubai also hosted launch events. No event was held in the U.S. where analysts say there is little demand or carrier interest.

BlackBerry has increasingly lost relevance as a smart-

phone company in the years since the 2007 launch of Apple's touchscreen iPhone and the 2008 introduction of Google-powered Android phones.

Chen, who took over as CEO last fall after failed attempt to sell the once-iconic company, said the new phone was in the works before he joined BlackBerry and joked that he can only take credit for not killing it.

He said he's determined to win back market share in Canada and had hockey-great Wayne Gretzky give a brief speech in support of

BlackBerry.

"The reason why we're here is to really try to get the Canadian people to rally behind us," Chen said. "I need that help, badly." The Passport is the size of a passport and has a square screen that measures 4.5 inches. It has a touch screen and a physical keyboard, something traditional BlackBerry business users prefer.

Chen said the Passport will be available in the U.S. via A&T on an exclusive basis by the end of the year. It is also available for \$599 for a limited time through Ama-

zon. He said he expects to release a more popular phone called the "Classic" later this year.

The BlackBerry smartphone, pioneered in 1999, changed the culture by allowing on-the-go business people to access wireless email. Then came a new generation of competing smartphones, and suddenly the BlackBerry looked ancient. Apple first showed that phones can handle much more than email and phone calls with its iPhone. BlackBerry has been hammered by the competition. □

zon. He said he expects to release a more popular phone called the "Classic" later this year.

Report: Treasury OKs huge pay raises for GM and Ally

MARCY GORDON
AP Business Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — The U.S. Treasury Department continued to approve "excessive" pay raises for top executives at General Motors and its former consumer finance arm, both of which received taxpayer-funded bailouts during the financial crisis, a new government report says.

The government watchdog that oversees the \$475 billion bailout said Treasury approved cash salaries exceeding \$500,000 last year for 16 of the 47 top executives at General Motors Corp. and Ally Financial Inc. Treasury allowed total pay packages, including company stock, of at least \$1 million for every top executive at the two companies, according to the report released Wednesday by the special inspector general for the Troubled Asset Relief Program.

It said the government approved \$3 million in pay raises, from 4 percent to 20 percent, for nine GM executives, most of whom had previously received raises several years in a row. The government sold its last shares of GM in December.

"Treasury loosened its own pay restrictions for senior executives at General Motors and Ally Financial year after year, even as taxpayer losses in these companies mounted," Christy Romero, the special inspector general, said in a statement. "Treasury could be sending the message that much-needed reforms coming out of the financial crisis are no longer necessary or required in exchange for TARP dollars."

A report issued in April by Romero estimated that taxpayers lost \$11.2 billion on the GM bailout, up from a previous estimate of \$10.5 billion. The automaker needed the \$49.5 billion in aid to survive its 2009 bankruptcy restructuring. GM went public again in November 2010.

GM has faced intense scrutiny this year over its failure to correct an ignition-switch defect in small cars for more than a decade, even as it learned of fatal crashes. The company recalled 2.6 million cars this year to replace the switches. It has been under investigation by Congress and the Justice Department.

Detroit-based Ally, formerly called GMAC Inc., was the auto loan and mortgage arm of GM until it was taken over by the government in the 2008 bailout. Ally has repaid \$18 billion, or about \$875 million more than the \$17.2 billion in aid it received. The company went public again in April. Treasury sold a chunk of its stock and raised \$2.38 billion in the offering.

The government currently owns a 13.8 percent stake. The new report estimates that taxpayers lost \$1.8 billion on sales of Ally stock.

President Barack Obama said last year that top executives at the seven companies that received the biggest bailouts would have their annual cash salaries capped at \$500,000. Any additional compensation would come from company stock that can't be cashed in until the companies repay their bailouts.

The report said Treasury failed to comply with that limitation in approving executive pay for GM and Ally executives in 2013. Treasury put only a "minimal" amount of restricted stock into pay packages last year and eliminated it completely from 2014 packages, it said. Patricia Geoghegan, the Treasury official who approved the raises, disputed the report's findings. Geoghegan said that for all the seven companies receiving the most aid, Treasury has had to find a balance between limiting compensation and approving pay packages that are competitive with executives in similar jobs. □

Wal-Mart: Mobile checking account nixes fees

JOSEPH PISANI

AP Business Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Wal-Mart is the latest company to get rid of fees that traditional banks charge customers who don't have enough money in their accounts to cover purchases. The world's largest retailer said Wednesday that it teamed up with Green Dot Corp., a company known for its reloadable prepaid cards, to bring mobile checking accounts to its shoppers.

The accounts won't charge overdraft and bounced-check fees.

It's the latest attempt to offer banking services that cater to cash-strapped Americans who are still struggling in the economic recovery.

Bank of America and CitiBank both launched checking accounts this year that don't charge overdraft fees, which can normally cost up to \$35 per transaction.

The moves come as overdraft fees, which occur when a customer doesn't have enough cash in their account to cover a purchase, have come under increasing scrutiny by regulators in the past few years. In 2010, banks were required to get written approval from customers to provide overdraft protection, which allows balances to go below zero. But those that opt for overdraft coverage are still paying high

fees: Some customers at large banks can pay, on average, almost \$260 a year in overdraft fees, according to the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau.

Wal-Mart and Green Dot's account, called GoBank, has a monthly fee of \$8.95. But that can be waived if a direct deposit of \$500 is

country. Using an ATM outside the network will result in a \$2.50 charge. There's also a 3 percent fee for money taken out at an ATM outside of the country. And to attract people with poor credit scores and little money, Wal-Mart said that credit bureau ratings and other scores typically used to determine eligibility are



This photo shows a sign outside a Wal-Mart store in Duarte, Calif. Wal-Mart on Wednesday, Sept. 24, 2014 said it is launching a mobile checking account for its customers that will eliminate some of the fees charged by banks.

(AP Photo/Damian Dovarganes)

made each month.

To open an account, customers need to go to a Wal-Mart store and pay \$2.95 for a starter kit. They must also own a smartphone, since most of the banking is done through the app.

The kit comes with a MasterCard debit card that can be used to make purchases or to take out money, for no fee, at more than 42,000 ATMs around the

not part of the process. Daniel Eckert, senior vice president of services for Walmart U.S., said that the retailer's customers "feel they just aren't getting value from traditional banking because of high fees."

Wal-Mart's move follows similar ones by big banks. Bank of America launched its SafeBalance account, which has a monthly fee of \$4.95 and no overdraft fees. □

Valeant Pharma expects hot 3Q revenue

The Associated Press

Shares of Valeant Pharmaceuticals International Inc. climbed Wednesday after the Canadian drugmaker said it expects market share gains in most of its businesses and that its third-quarter revenue will top forecasts.

The drugmaker also said it expects 10 percent growth from the established business of its contact lens maker Bausch + Lomb, a target of criticism in Valeant's ongoing takeover battle with Botox-maker Allergan Inc. Allergan has rebuffed several takeover bids from

Valeant over the past few months, the latest amounting to about \$53 billion. But it has agreed to hold a special shareholder meeting on Dec. 18, at which its shareholders will be given the opportunity to vote out most of its directors.

That could give Valeant and activist investor Bill Ackman's Pershing Square Capital Management LP, which has built a large stake in Allergan, a chance at a takeover. Beyond control of the board, there also will be a vote on whether Allergan should even talk

to Valeant and Pershing Square.

The companies have traded barbs throughout the takeover battle, and Valeant has said that Allergan has made misleading statements about Valeant's businesses, including Bausch + Lomb, which Valeant acquired last year.

Allergan, based in Irvine, California, has repeatedly called Valeant's takeover offer "grossly inadequate" and questioned Valeant's business model and the cuts it would make to Allergan's business. □

Mutts



Conceptis Sudoku

| | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | 3 | 1 | | 5 | 4 |
| 4 | 7 | | | 8 | |
| | | 8 | | 2 | 9 |
| 9 | 6 | | 7 | | |
| | | 4 | | 2 | 1 |
| 1 | 6 | | 9 | | |
| | 4 | | | 3 | 2 |
| 5 | 2 | | 3 | 6 | |

Difficulty Level ★★★

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9/25

6 Chix



Blondie



Yesterday's puzzle answer

| | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 5 | 6 | 3 | 7 | 2 | 1 | 8 | 9 | 4 |
| 2 | 1 | 4 | 9 | 8 | 5 | 3 | 7 | 6 |
| 7 | 8 | 9 | 6 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 2 | 1 |
| 6 | 2 | 8 | 1 | 7 | 9 | 4 | 3 | 5 |
| 9 | 5 | 1 | 4 | 6 | 3 | 7 | 8 | 2 |
| 3 | 4 | 7 | 2 | 5 | 8 | 6 | 1 | 9 |
| 1 | 3 | 6 | 8 | 4 | 2 | 9 | 5 | 7 |
| 8 | 7 | 2 | 5 | 9 | 6 | 1 | 4 | 3 |
| 4 | 9 | 5 | 3 | 1 | 7 | 2 | 6 | 8 |

Mother Goose & Grimm



Baby Blues



Zits



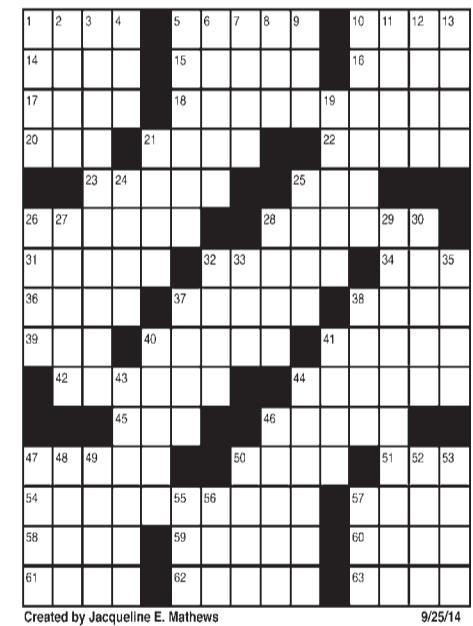
ACROSS

1 Space flight agency: abbr.
5 Cooking herb
10 Job opening
14 Has debts
15 Cream of the crop
16 Sharpen
17 Discussion
18 Fair & sensible
20 Private __; detective
21 Disease producer
22 Follows orders
23 Word with space or witch
25 Profession
26 Affirm to be true
28 Deep narrow valley
31 __ setter: reddish dog
32 Slovenly folks
34 Compete
36 Money, slangily
37 Frames of mind
38 Declare untrue
39 Male relation
40 Keep a cooking turkey moist
41 Writer Jules __
42 Not genuine
44 Passes on, as a message
45 Ike's initials
46 __-depressive; bipolar
47 Bit of parsley
50 Locate
51 2,000 pounds
54 Going forward
57 Chauffeured car, for short
58 Right on the map?
59 Knight's spear
60 Enthusiastic
61 Recolors
62 Derisive smile
63 Understands

4 Invite
5 __ of; lacking
6 Open-eyed
7 Thailand, once
8 __ a tough job, but..."
9 Name for 13 popes
10 Threadbare
11 Part of the ear
12 Exclusively
13 Pegs for Tiger
19 Lunch hours
21 Deep wide cut
24 Take a break
25 Pokes
26 Feels sick
27 Scout group
28 Area __; phone number's start
29 Hyper
30 Airhead
32 Mediocre
33 Building site
35 Observes
37 Manufactured
38 Sandwich shop
40 Wouldn't __; refused to move

DOWN

1 Short letter
2 Out of town
3 Choices



Wednesday's Puzzle Solved

| | | | | | | | | |
|---|-------|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Z | A | P | C | E | D | S | I | F |
| I | C | E | D | A | T | O | N | E |
| P | E | A | R | M | I | N | D | S |
| S | L | E | E | P | L | E | S | A |
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| A | V | I | D | P | U | T | T | S |
| M | E | L | M | U | L | E | G | S |
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| S | L | O | B | I | N | S | I | T |
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| W | A | G | E | R | O | U | E | E |
| A | V | I | D | P | U | T | T | S |
| M | E | L | M | U | L | E | G | S |
| P | R | E | C | E | D | S | I | S |
| S | L | O | B | I | N | S | I | T |
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Marijuana legalization effort begins in California

LISA LEFF
Associated Press

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — A U.S. marijuana advocacy group took steps Wednesday to begin raising money for a campaign to legalize recreational pot use in California in 2016, a move with potential to add a dose of extra excitement to the presidential election year. The Marijuana Policy Project filed paperwork with the California secretary of state's office registering a campaign committee to start accepting and spending contributions for a pot legalization initiative on the November 2016 state ballot, the group said. The measure would be similar to those passed in 2012 by voters in Colorado and Washington, the first U.S. states to legalize commercial sales of marijuana to all adults over 21.

California, long the national leader in illegal marijuana production and home to a thriving, largely unregulated medical marijuana industry, is one of the 21 other states that currently allow marijuana use only for medical reasons. The drug remains illegal under federal law. "Marijuana prohibition has had an enormously detrimental impact on California communities. It's been ineffective, wasteful and counterproductive. It's time for a more responsible approach," Marijuana Policy Project Executive Director Rob Kampia said. "Regulating and taxing marijuana similarly to alcohol just makes sense."

The Washington, D.C.-based group also has established campaign committees to back legalization measures in Arizona, Massachusetts and Nevada in 2016.



Marijuana is harvested in Davenport, Calif. The Marijuana Policy Project on Wednesday, Sept. 24, 2014, will file paperwork with the California secretary of state's office for a new committee that aims to put a pot legalization measure on the November 2016 state ballot, the group said.

(AP Photo/Marcio Jose Sanchez, File)

Voters in Oregon, Alaska and the District of Columbia will weigh in on marijuana legalization in November. In 2010, California voters rejected a ballot

initiative seeking to legalize recreational pot. The measure, just like the medical marijuana law the state approved in 1996, was the first of its kind. But along with

opposition from law enforcement and elected officials, Proposition 19 faced unexpected resistance from medical marijuana users and outlaw growers in the state's so-called Emerald Triangle who worried legalization would lead to plummeting marijuana prices.

Marijuana Policy Project spokesman Mason Tvert predicted no such divisions would surface this time around.

Citing his group's experience in Colorado and the advantage of aiming for a presidential election year when voter turnout is higher, Tvert said legalization supporters would use the next two years to build a broad-based coalition and craft ballot language that addresses concerns of particular constituencies. □

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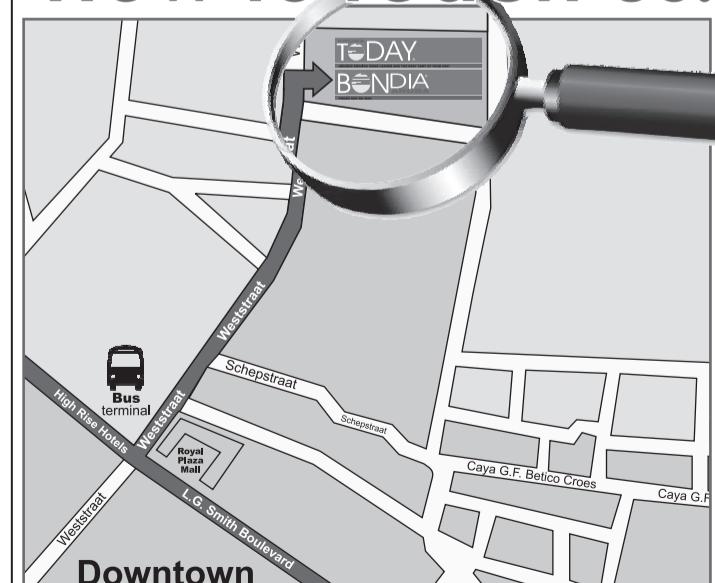
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Mexico sees sign of hope for Monarch butterflies

MARK STEVENSON

Associated Press

MEXICO CITY (AP) — Experts in Mexico said Tuesday there is a tentative sign of hope for the mass migration of monarch butterflies, whose numbers dropped to their lowest level ever last year.

The head of Mexico's nature reserves, Luis Fueyo, said the first butterflies have been seen entering Mexico earlier than usual this year. Fueyo said it is too early to say whether butterfly numbers will rebound this year from a series of sharp drops, but noted "this premature presence could be the prelude to an increase in the migration."

He said the first butterflies have been sighted in the northern border state of Coahuila. Most normally arrive in October from the United States and Canada, where they spend the summer. "This year, we are seeing them present in Mexican territory earlier than usual," Fueyo said. By November they settle in mountaintop forests where they spend the winter. Fueyo said authorities will wait to make a definitive count after the butterflies have settled in completely, something that usually occurs by December.

In February, Mexico, the United States and Canada agreed to form working groups on the conservation of Monarch butterflies, after steep and steady declines in the previous three years. Last year, the black-and-orange butterflies covered only 1.65 acres (0.67 hectares) in the pine and fir forests west of Mexico City, down from more than 44.5 acres (18 hectares) at their recorded peak in 1996.



In this Feb. 26, 2009 file photo, monarch butterflies gather on top of flowers at the Monarch Butterfly Biosphere Reserve, near the town of Chincua, Mexico.

Because the butterflies clump together by the thousands in trees, counting individuals in near impossible; instead they are counted by the area they cover.

The head of international affairs for Mexico's Environment Department, Enrique Lendo Fuentes, said the three nations "will probably have a joint plan of action before the end of November."

The plan, experts said, would be to create a corridor of milkweed-friendly areas along the entire three-nation migratory route. That is important, because the butterfly has to reproduce along the way; the same generation doesn't make the entire trip.

For its part, Mexico has already taken a number of steps, like setting up a network of observers to track monarchs from the time they enter the country, to

try to identify milkweed patches that the butterflies might use along their way to their mountain wintering grounds. Activists have launched a web site where Mexicans can report and share sightings.

Monarchs lay eggs on milkweed leaves that hatch into caterpillars, morph into chrysalises and transform into butterflies. The butter-

fly's dramatic decline is being driven by widespread planting of genetically engineered, herbicide-resistant crops that tend to drastically decrease the amount of milkweed available.

Mexican writer and environmentalist Homero Aridjis, said the butterflies face a number of challenges, including climate change and illegal logging in Mexi-

co, in addition to the loss of habitat in the United States. "We are alarmed, because we don't yet what is going to happen" with butterflies, whose migration — but not the existence of the species — is considered at risk of disappearing.

"We don't know what size population is going to come" to Mexico, "so we are a little alarmed." □

Dengue-blocking mosquito released in Brazil

RIO DE JANEIRO (AP) — Brazilian researchers have freed a batch of mosquitoes infected with a dengue-blocking bacteria they hope can combat the tropical disease naturally.

Scientists at the Rio de Janeiro-based Fiocruz research institute are taking part in a global project to release the mosquitoes. Similar action has already taken place in Australia, Vietnam and Indonesia.

The mosquitoes released Wednesday are infected with the Wolbachia bacteria that can block them from getting the highly infectious disease dengue and passing it to humans. It's hoped the bacteria will be passed through generations of mosqui-



A technician releases mosquitoes that are infected with a dengue-blocking bacteria called "Wolbachia" in the Tuiacanga neighborhood of Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, Wednesday, Sept. 24, 2014.

Associated Press

toes and eventually wipe out the insects' ability to spread dengue. Some scientists estimate that around 390 million people get dengue each year. Dengue causes extreme joint pain and headaches, though it usually isn't fatal. There is no cure. □



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'Boxtrolls' blends old-school, high-tech animation

SANDY COHEN
AP Entertainment Writer

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Archibald Snatcher, "The Boxtrolls" villain voiced by Ben Kingsley, did not walk between sets during filming. Instead, he was delicately perched on a pillow and wheeled gingerly through the studio.

This wasn't a Hollywood diva demand that required Snatcher to be treated like precious cargo. As an 18-inch-tall, hand-made puppet actor, he actually IS precious cargo: the result of countless hours of conceptualization and craft; a work of art with a jointed metal skeleton, silicone skin and hair made from hemp. If the world of "The Boxtrolls" feels real to moviegoers, that's because it is. From the cobblestone streets of Cheesebridge to the underground wonderland the boxtrolls call home, everything shown onscreen in the film really exists at Laika Studios just outside Portland, Oregon. Each fantastical character and set is meticulously built by hand.

The puppet stars have working joints so they can be moved into position and photographed frame by frame, just as stop-motion animation has been done for the past century. But it takes a high-tech touch to really make "The Boxtrolls" come alive.

"We don't want for a second for the audience to



In this image released by Focus Features, Eggs, voiced by Isaac Hempstead Wright, appears in a scene from "The Boxtrolls."

Associated Press

even think these are dolls," said Laika Studios chief Travis Knight.

"I want them to see them as living, breathing, emoting things with aspirations and hopes by bringing subtlety and nuance to the performance."

"The Boxtrolls," in theaters Friday, tells the story of Eggs (Isaac Hempstead Wright), a boy raised by boxtrolls since he was a baby. While the human citizens of Cheesebridge believe the subterranean box-clad creatures are evil, Eggs knows they're sweet and resourceful, coming above ground at night to collect garbage and transform it into spectacular machinery for their bustling society. With the help of a curious

girl, Winnie (Elle Fanning), Eggs fights to protect the boxtrolls from Snatcher, who would have them eradicated.

Knight said it's the 9-year-old studio's most ambitious film to date. It features more puppet stars and advanced technology than Laika's first two features, "Coraline" and "ParaNorman," which each earned Oscar nods.

The puppets start as sketches and clay models before they're built as working actors that can do everything the story demands of the character.

The costume department stitches tiny outfits for the puppet actors to wear. Artists make extra hands for all characters (with floral

wire inside for mobility), because hands are the first to break. Some puppets have "stunt legs" to perform action sequences.

Snatcher is among the tallest puppet stars. Eggs stands at about 9 1/2 inches, Knight said, while the boxtrolls are 3 to 4 inches high. Their faces are their most high-tech feature.

Through computer design, rapid prototyping and 3-D printing, artists are able to create an infinite range of facial expression possibilities for the puppet actors. "It's like a little Mr. Potato Head," Knight said. Each puppet has a collection of detachable, interchangeable upper and lower facial pieces that can be combined to con-

vey various emotions and phonetic sounds.

"Facial librarians" on staff keep track of all the computer-printed expressions. When an animator takes on a scene, he checks out a set of face parts for his puppet actors. The set comes packaged in what looks like a pizza box.

"There were 15,000 different pieces for Eggs' faces," said Anthony Stacchi, who co-directed the film with Graham Annable. "The combinations you could put them in were over a million."

The celebrity voice actors provide the character's vocal personality, and the animators and puppets provide their physical performance. Frame by frame, the animators translate magnet-backed face pieces into human expressions and incremental movements into fluid motion as the puppets enact the story.

"It's all the different parts that inform the (animation) process — the rapid prototyping, the 3-D printing ... the digital photography, the different lighting techniques — those are all things that ultimately change what comes out at the other end," Knight said.

"But the process at its very core is the same: It's still an animator on a set moving a puppet a frame at a time and bringing it to life that way."

Kristen Bell free from paparazzi in 2nd pregnancy

SANDY COHEN
AP Entertainment Writer

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Kristen Bell says she's much more comfortable during her second pregnancy — not just because she has a better idea of what to expect, but because she's no longer trailed by paparazzi. The actress established the No Kids Policy earlier this year that saw stars unite to withhold interviews from outlets that published photos of celebrity children

without parental permission. With a spate of A-list signees to the policy, entertainment news outlets quickly curbed their practice of showing such images.

"The response has been so overwhelming that it's really almost a moral stance that the consumer demanded their publications take," Bell said in an interview. "We're all consuming healthier media now." She said fellow entertainers

have also told her they're not photographed as often while out with their children. "I feel a lot safer because I'm not followed at all now," Bell said. "It makes me feel like we all rallied and did something — the good people that were on the side of responsible parenting and passionate about child welfare spoke up and made a difference, and that is a really invigorating feeling."

The 34-year-old "Frozen"



In this July 30, 2014 file photo, actress Kristen Bell attends the world premiere of "Lexus Short Films" at Regal LA LIVE in Los Angeles.

Associated Press

star said she's also feeling good because of her eco-friendly lifestyle, which she

discussed Tuesday at an event to promote Neutrogena Naturals.

Before rape joke, 'Family Guy' had its critics

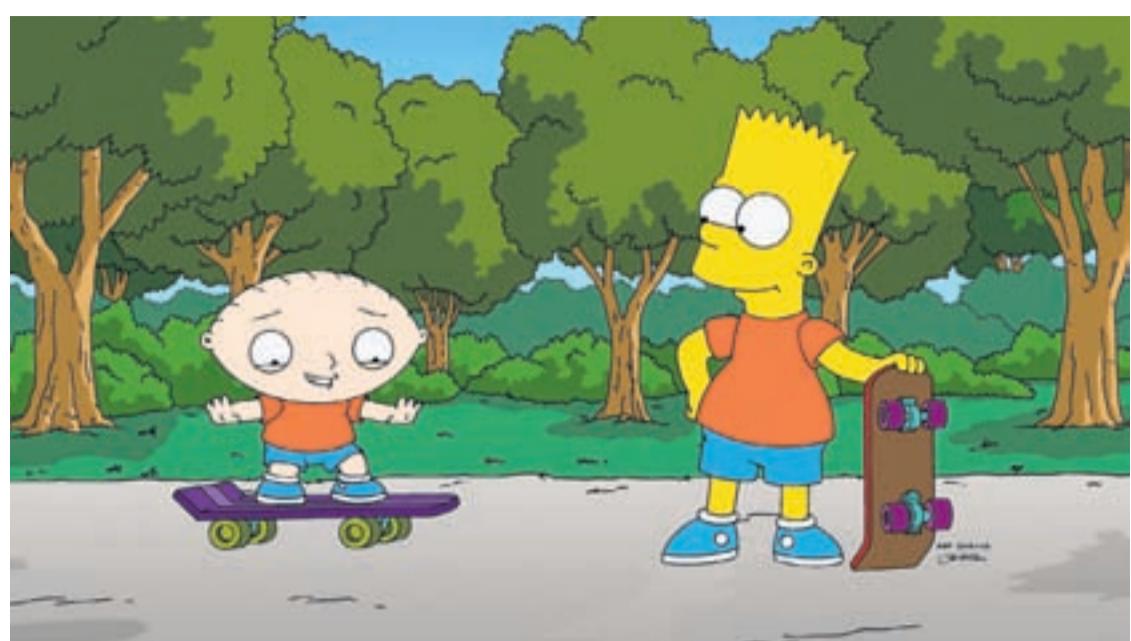


In this May 15, 2014 file photo, Seth MacFarlane, creator of the "Family Guy," animated series, arrives at the World Premiere of "A Million Ways To Die In The West" in Westwood, Calif.

Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — This weekend's crossover episode of Fox's "Family Guy" and "The Simpsons" has received criticism for a scene where a character uses rape as a punchline for a joke. It's not the first time the adult-oriented humor on the animated "Family Guy" has gotten its creators in hot water. Here are some other examples: —Fox declined to air an episode, "Partial Terms of Endearment," during the 2009-10 season when family matriarch Lois Griffin contemplates an abortion. She was acting

as a surrogate for a couple killed in an auto accident before the baby was born. Fox executives said it was fragile subject matter at a sensitive time. The episode was later released on DVD. —The episode, "When You Wish Upon a Weinstein" was criticized as anti-Semitic by The Forward, a newspaper that spotlights Jewish issues. In it, the character Peter sings a song titled "I Need a Jew." Fox initially declined to air it, and it was shown first on Adult Swim on the Cartoon Network in 2003. Fox then aired it the next year.



In this image provided by Fox, Stewie Griffin, left, learns to skateboard from his new friend, Bart Simpson in a scene from "The Simpsons Guy," the one-hour season premiere episode of "Family Guy," airing Sunday, Sept. 28, 2014.

Associated Press

Rape joke on Fox cartoons draws attention

DAVID BAUDER
AP Television Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — The Fox network isn't responding to suggestions that it edit its upcoming crossover episode of "The Simpsons" and "Family Guy" to remove a joke where the punch line is "your sister's being raped."

The line appears in Sunday's much-awaited special where Bart Simpson and his family hang around with Stewie and the rest of the "Family Guy" crew, and has already circulated

in a trailer for the episode that Fox released online over the summer.

It punctuates a scene in which the incorrigible Bart is instructing Stewie Griffin in the art of the prank phone call. Bart dials the owner of Moe's Tavern and asks whether there is anyone there with the last name Keybum, first name Lee. When Moe calls out to his patrons, asking for a "leaky bum," everyone gets a laugh.

Stewie thinks that's cool, and asks to make his own prank call.

"Hello, Moe?" he says. "Your sister's being raped." Tim Winter, president of the advocacy group Parents Television Council, said he's a longtime fan of Matt Groening, creator of "The Simpsons," and sought out the trailer when it was released.

"I was blown out of my shoes when I saw the scene with the rape joke in it," Winter said. "It really troubled me."

He said he found it particularly offensive in the context of stories about sexual assaults on college campuses and, most recently, talk about abusive treatment of women by some players in the National Football League. He said when rape is accepted as a punch line for a joke

in entertainment, "it becomes less outrageous in real life."

Winter said he wrote to Groening, "Family Guy" creator Seth MacFarlane and Fox in August, asking that the joke be removed when the episode is shown on television. He said he received no reply.

Fox's entertainment division, through a spokeswoman, said it would not comment on the criticism or whether there are any second thoughts about the joke.

Katherine Hull Fliflet, spokeswoman for the Washington-based Rape, Abuse and Incest National Network, said she did not find the line offensive.

"I think the show is making it clear that rape is not funny by how they are positioning the joke," Fliflet said. "It's my hope that would be the viewers' take-away."

RAINN, which says it is the nation's largest anti-sexual assault organization and operates a rape hotline, works with creators in Hollywood to help them depict sexual assault realistically. The group lists actress Christina Ricci as a national spokesperson.

The National Organization for Women didn't respond to requests for comment on the Fox comedies.

'Jersey Shore' star Mike Sorrentino hit with tax counts

DAVID PORTER
Associated Press

NEWARK, New Jersey (AP) — A former star of the MTV reality show "Jersey Shore" and his brother have pleaded not guilty to federal tax charges.

Mike "The Situation" Sorrentino and his brother Marc were charged in a seven-count indictment released Wednesday by the U.S. attorney's office.

They're alleged to have failed to pay required taxes on nearly \$9 million earned between 2010 and 2012, mainly through two businesses they owned between. The counts range from conspiracy to defraud the United States, which carries a five-year maximum prison sentence, to false filing and failure to file.

The brothers appeared in court Wednesday in Newark and are each free on \$250,000 bail. They're next scheduled for an arraignment on Oct. 6.

When asked after the brief hearing if he was innocent, Mike Sorrentino replied, "Of course."



Mike "The Situation" Sorrentino leaves the MLK Jr. Federal Courthouse in Newark, N.J., after a court appearance, Wednesday, Sept. 24, 2014, in Newark.

Associated Press

The ISIS Crisis



THOMAS L. FRIEDMAN

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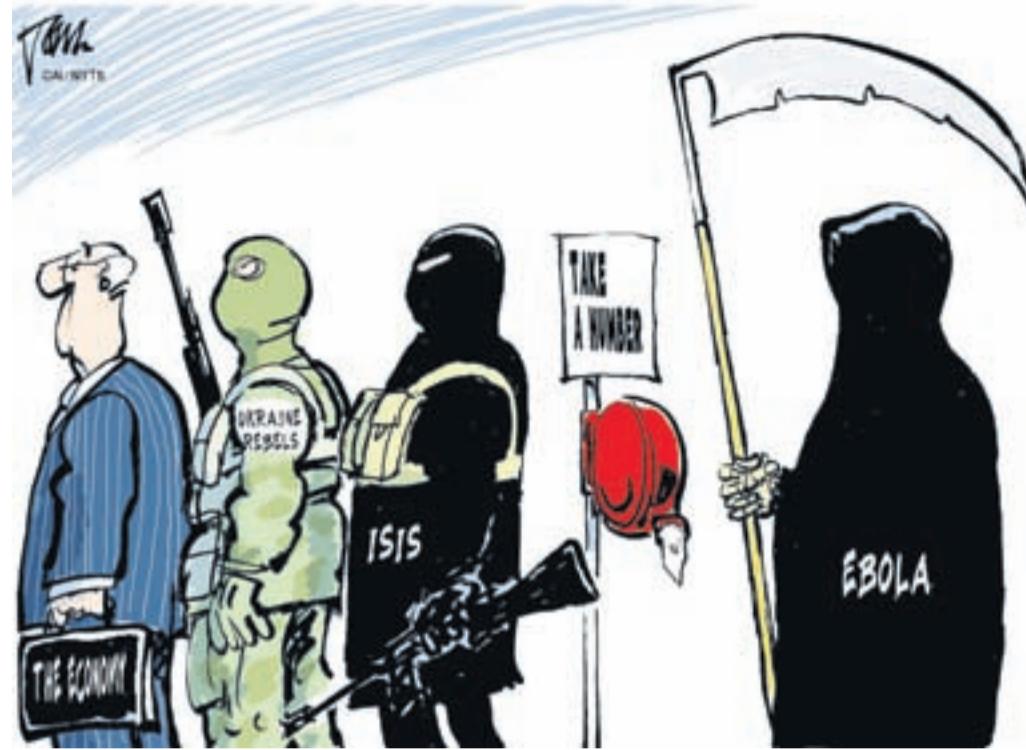
There is a tension at the heart of President Barack Obama's campaign to confront the Islamic State, and it explains a lot about why he has so much trouble articulating and implementing his strategy. Quite simply, it is the tension between two vital goals - promoting the "soul-searching" that the Islamic State's emergence has triggered in the Arab-Muslim world and "searching and destroying" the extremist group in its strongholds in Syria and Iraq. Get used to it. This tension is not going away. Obama will have to lead through it. The good news: The rise of the Islamic State, also known as ISIS, is triggering some long overdue, brutally honest, soul-searching by Arabs and Muslims about how such a large, murderous Sunni death cult could have emerged in their midst. Look at a few samples, starting with "The Barbarians Within Our Gates," written in Politico last week by Hisham Melhem, the Washington bureau chief of Al-Arabiya, the Arabic satellite channel. "With his decision to use force against the violent extremists of the Islamic State, President Obama ... is stepping once again - and with understandably great reluctance - into the chaos of an entire civilization that has broken down. Arab civilization, such as we knew it, is all but gone. The Arab world today is more violent, unstable, fragmented and driven by extremism - the extremism of the rulers and those in opposition - than at any time since the collapse of the Ottoman Empire a century ago. "Every hope of modern Arab history has been betrayed," Melhem added. "The promise of political empowerment, the return of politics, the restoration of human dignity heralded by the season of Arab uprisings in their early heydays - all has given way to civil wars, ethnic, sectarian and regional divisions and the reassertion of absolutism, both in its military and atavistic forms. ... The jihadists of the Islamic State, in other words, did not emerge from nowhere. They climbed out of a rotting, empty hulk - what was left of a broken-down civilization." The liberal Saudi analyst Turki al-Hamad responded in the London-based Al-Arab newspaper to King Abdullah's call for Saudi religious leaders to confront Islamic State ideology: How can they? al-Hamad asked. They all embrace the same anti-pluralistic, puritanical Wahhabi Sunni ideology that Saudi Arabia diffused, at home and abroad, to the mosques that nurtured the Islamic State.

"They are unable to face the groups of violence, extremism

and beheadings, not out of laziness or procrastination, but because all of them share in that same ideology," al-Hamad wrote. "How can they confront an ideology that they themselves carry within them and within their mindset?" The Lebanese Shiite writer Hanin Ghaddar in an essay in August on Lebanon's Now website wrote: "To fight the I.S. and other radical groups, and to prevent the rise of new autocratic rulers, we need to assume responsibility for the collective failures that have produced all of these awful tyrants and fanatics. Our media and education systems are liable for the monster we helped create. ... We need to teach our children how to learn from our mistakes instead of how to master the art of denial. When our educators and journalists start to understand the significance of individual rights, and admit that we have failed to be citizens, then we can start hoping for freedom, even if it is achieved slowly."

Nurturing this soul-searching is a vital - and smart - part of the Obama strategy. In committing America to an air-campaign-only against Islamic State targets in Syria and Iraq, Obama has declared that the ground war will have to be fought by Arabs and Muslims, not just because this is their war and they should take the brunt of the casualties, but because the very act of their organizing themselves across Shiite, Sunni and Kurdish lines - the very act of overcoming their debilitating sectarian and political differences that would be required to defeat the Islamic State on the ground - is the necessary ingredient for creating any kind of decent, consensual government that could replace the Islamic State in any self-sustaining way. The tension arises because the Islamic State is a killing machine, and it will take another killing machine to search it out and destroy it on the ground. There is no way the "moderate" Syrians we're training can alone fight the militant group and the Syrian regime at the same time. Iraqis, Turkey and the nearby Arab states will have to also field troops. After all, this is a civil war for the future of both Sunni Islam and the Arab world. We can degrade the Islamic State from the air - I'm glad we have hit these psychopaths in Syria - but only Arabs and Turks can destroy the Islamic State on the ground. Right now, Turkey's president, Recep Tayyip Erdogan, stands for authoritarianism, press intimidation, crony capitalism and quiet support for Islamists, including the Islamic State. He won't even let us use our base in Turkey to degrade the Islamic State from the air. What's in his soul? What's in the soul of the Arab regimes who are ready to join us in bombing the extremists in Syria, but rule out ground troops?

This is a civilization in distress, and unless it faces the pathologies that have given birth to an Islamic State monster its belly - any victory we achieve from the air or ground will be temporary.



Two Redheaded Strangers



MAUREEN DOWD

© 2014 New York Times

WASHINGTON - When Willie Nelson invites you to get high with him on his bus, you go. The man is the patron saint of pot, after all, and I'm the poster girl for bad pot trips. It seemed like a match made in hash heaven. When Nelson sang at the 9:30 Club in D.C. one recent night, I ventured onto the Honeysuckle Rose, as his tour bus and home-away-from-home is called. I was feeling pretty shy about meeting him. The 81-year-old Redheaded Stranger is an icon, one of America's top songwriters and, as Rolling Stone said, "a hippie's hippie and a redneck's redneck." The Smithsonian wants his guitar, "Trigger."

I needed a marijuana Mr. Miyagi, and who better than Nelson, who has a second-degree black belt in taekwondo and a first-degree black belt in helping NORML push for pot legalization?

In a Rolling Stone cover piece last month on "America's Most Beloved Outlaw," Nelson told writer Patrick Doyle that he had read my column on having a bad reaction to a marijuana-infused candy bar while I was in Denver covering the pot revolution in Colorado.

"Maybe she'll read the label now!" he said, laughing, adding that I was welcome to get high on his bus "anytime."

So that's how I found myself, before Nelson's show here, sitting opposite him in a booth on the bus as he drank black coffee out of a pottery cup, beneath a bulletin board filled with family

photos.

His eyes were brass-colored, to use Loretta Lynn's description. His long pigtails were graying. His green T-shirt bore the logo of his son's band, Promise of the Real. So, Sensei, if I ever decide to give legal pot a whirl again, what do I need to know?

"The same thing that happened to you happened to me one or two times when I was not aware of how much strength was in whatever I was eating," Nelson said, in his honeyed voice. "One time, I ate a bunch of cookies that, I knew they were laced but I didn't worry about it. I just wanted to see what it would do, and I overdid it, naturally, and I was laying there, and it felt like the flesh was falling off my bones. "Honestly, I don't do edibles," he continued. "I'd rather do it the old-fashioned way, because I don't enjoy the high that the body gets. Although I realize there's a lot of other people who have to have it that way, like the children that they're bringing to Colorado right now for medical treatments. Those kids can't smoke. So for those people, God bless 'em, we're for it."

Eager not to seem like a complete idiot, I burbled that, despite the assumption of many that I gobbled the whole candy bar, I had only taken a small bite off the end, and then when nothing seemed to be happening, another nibble.

Nelson humored me as I also pointed out that the labels last winter did not feature the information that would have saved me from my night of dread.

Now, however, Colorado and Washington state have passed emergency rules to get better labeling and portion control on edibles, whose highs kick in more slowly and can be more intense than when the drug is smoked. Activists are also pushing to make sure there are stamps or shapes to distinguish pot snacks - which had, heretofore, been designed to mimic regular snacks - so that children don't mistakenly ingest them.

Trying to prevent any more deaths, emergency-room trips or runaway paranoia, the Marijuana Policy Project has started an educational campaign called "Consume Responsibly."

Its whimsical first billboard in Denver shows a bandaged redhead in a hotel room - which is far too neat to be mine - with the warning: "Don't let a candy bar ruin your vacation. With edibles, start low and go slow."

Bill Maher also offered Colorado, "the Jackie Robinson of marijuana legislation," some tips, including having bartenders talk to customers "like a pharmacist would," curtail pot products that look like children's candy, and don't sell novices kief - superconcentrated crystals so potent that they're "harvested directly from Willie Nelson's beard."

I asked Nelson about Jerry Brown's contention that a nation of potheads would threaten American superiority.

"I never listened to him that much," he said, sweetly.

He showed me his pot vaporizer, noting: "Everybody's got to kill their own snakes, as they say. I found out that pot is the best thing for me because I needed something to slow me down a little bit." He was such a mean drunk, he said, that if he'd kept drinking heavily, "there's no telling how many people I would have killed by now."

I asked him about the time he was staying in the Carter White House - on bond from a pot bust - and took a joint up to the roof.

"It happened a long time ago," he said, adding slyly, "I'm sure it happened."

Did he also indulge in the Lincoln Bedroom?

"In what?" he replied, mischievously. "I wouldn't do anything Lincoln wouldn't have done."

Given all the horrors in the world now, I said, maybe President Barack Obama needs to chill out by reuniting the Choom Gang.

"I would think," Nelson said, laughing, "he would sneak off somewhere." □

Safe at Second: A Few Moments With Derek Jeter

DAVID WALDSTEIN

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Gordon Beckham was a rookie infielder with the Chicago White Sox when he had his first chance to chat with Derek Jeter at second base. It was Aug. 1, 2009, and Beckham had just hit a double, knocking the pitcher out of the game. During the pitching change, he and Jeter engaged in the typical mundane banter to fill the gap.

But talking to Jeter, the

guez, who tagged the embarrassed Beckham for the third out.

Few things in baseball are more routine than the casual conversations between infielders and base runners, small talk that is akin to the banter of colleagues on an elevator. But for opposing players, these conversations with Jeter - either when he is playing shortstop or on the bases - have become cherished moments, and never more

join the conversation, but Butler made the trip, even though he had just paid his respects to Jeter at first. He wanted more.

"He just talked about how hot it was," Butler said. "That it was really hot. He said he'd see us next week when we're playing him. I told him at first base it was an honor to be next to him. And how much of a mentor he's been to everybody and stuff like that. But at second base, it was just

Sometimes the topic is the weather, sometimes it is that day's game, or the stuff the pitcher has that day. Players say he is always ready to say hello, or pay a quick compliment, and is unfailingly upbeat. "He said, 'Keep going, guys, and continue to play hard,'" said Alcides Escobar, the Royals shortstop on that hot night in Kansas City. "'I'm proud of you guys. You guys are playing good. This is my last year. I

says that to everyone.' Not necessarily."

"He never said that to me because I was never on a streak like that," Beckham said.

Years ago, when Bautista was a little-known minor leaguer in the Pirates organization and playing in a spring training game, Jeter said hello to him when he reached second base and told him to keep up the good work.

"You always got the sense that he knew what was going on with you," Bautista said.

"He'd give that customary wink and say great job, you're looking great, keep it up. To hear it from a guy like that, you know, for him to basically acknowledge your existence, it means so much more."

Some veteran players have relationships with Jeter dating to the 1990s, and their interaction with him may go beyond the friendly banter.

Torii Hunter has played in the American League against Jeter since 1997, including many playoff games. One time they discussed the fact that Hunter's cousin Kendra was two years behind Jeter at Kalamazoo Central High School, and like Jeter, was a varsity basketball player. But often their conversations were of a different nature.

"I can't tell you what we talk about because you can't print it," Hunter said with a big laugh.

Jeter, who turned 40 this season, has long been playfully defensive about his age, whether with reporters, teammates or opponents. In 2011, Blue Jays center fielder Colby Rasmus hit a double in his first series against the Yankees and was greeted at second base by Jeter, who congratulated him.

Rasmus told Jeter that in 1999 he was part of a Little League World Series delegation that was honored at Yankee Stadium.

"What are you trying to tell me?" Jeter said in mock annoyance, as if Rasmus were highlighting Jeter's advanced age. □



New York Yankees shortstop Derek Jeter runs on a double in the bottom of the fifth inning of his last home game against the Baltimore Orioles at Yankee Stadium in New York, Sept. 22, 2014.

New York Yankees' shortstop, Beckham said, was different. He admits he was star-struck.

"He was the only one who made me feel that way," recalled Beckham, who is now with the Los Angeles Angels, "and I felt that way so much, I forgot how many outs there were."

The next batter hit a ground ball to Jeter, who threw to first for the second out. Beckham, still distracted from his conversation with Jeter, thought it was the final out. He wandered off third base and handed his helmet to the third-base coach. Mark Teixeira saw it and threw to Alex Rodriguez,

so than in the last few months as the end of his 20-year career approached.

In recent weeks, several unusual scenes at second base have played out in major league ballparks, reflecting the respect Jeter commands from his peers. One such moment took place on a sweltering August night in Kansas City.

As Jeter stood on second during a Royals pitching change, the shortstop came over to chat with him, followed closely by the second baseman - then by the first baseman, Billy Butler. It almost never happens that a first baseman goes all the way to second to

kind of small talk."

On Sunday at Yankee Stadium, in another unusual gesture, Jeter was on second base during a pitching change when all three members of the Toronto Blue Jays' outfield, including the slugger Jose Bautista, jogged in to shake his hand and congratulate him on his imminent retirement.

Although he is cautious when speaking to the news media, Jeter is one of the chattier players on the diamond. He said the recent conversations with opposing players have not been out of the ordinary. "No," he said, "same old."

want to rest and be watching you guys on TV."

That last part may not be true; Jeter has said many times that he does not watch baseball on television. Still, for many younger players, he is often there with a word of encouragement. One day a few years ago, he had high praise for Ian Kinsler, the Detroit second baseman who was then playing for the Texas Rangers.

"I got to second base once after hitting a double, and he said, 'Hey, man, you're my favorite player,'" Kinsler recalled. "He said: 'You're swinging it great right now. Keep it up.' But I think he

(Uli Seit/The New York Times)